28/2.33

JOURNAL

KEPT IN THE

ISLE OF MAN,

DIVERS AN ACCOUNT OF THE

WIND and WEATHER, and Daily Occurrences,

For upwards of Eleven Months;

WITH OBSERVATIONS ON THE

SOIL, CLIME, AND NATURAL PRODUCTIONS

OF THAT ISLAND.

ALSO

ANTIQUITIES OF VARIOUS KINDS,

NOW EXTANT THERE:

A Trait of the Manners and Customs, both general and peculiar, of the Inhabitants:

An Account of their Harbours; great Usefulness of Douglas Harbour; Neglect, and Want of Repairs.

Description of their Noble Herring Fishery, &c.

TOGETHER WITH A LARGE

APPENDIX:

Containing an Account of the ancient Forms of Government, and mild Administration of Justice, under the Noble House of Stanley; with Transcripts and Extracts from the ancient Statute Books of the ISLE;

TOGETHER WITH

EXPLANATORY NOTES and OBSERVATIONS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY RICHARD TOWNLEY, Esq.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

WHITEHAVEN:

PRINTED BY J. WARE AND SON.

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TO

The Right Honourable

EDWARD

Earl of DERBY,

MY LORD,

THE life of man, though neither inconsiderable in itself, nor yet contemptible with respect to its natural advantages, has been

To the

The Right Honourable

EDWARD

Earl of DERBY.

My LORD,

THE Isle of Man, though neither insignificant in size, nor yet contemptible with respect to its natural advantages, has been

 hitherto

hitherto so little known, or at least attended to, by the generality of our countrymen, that it will be matter of surprise to numbers, when they come to learn from indubitable authority, That under the mild and equitable government of your ILLUSTRIOUS ANCESTORS, it enjoyed not only a continued state of local tranquillity and internal happiness, but also a large share of civil and religious liberty; and that too, when all the powerful states of Europe were not only groaning under the oppressive power of their civil rulers, but also enslaved, by the most cruel, and at the same time most contemptible of all tyrants, gross superstition and religious imposture.

BRITAIN was one of the first great nations to spurn at her ignominious thraldom; and, with a spirit peculiar to herself, to aspire after rights, which God and nature had kindly conferred upon all, but were unjustly withheld by cruel and rapacious governors, supported in their unjust claims by the tyrannic power and intolerant spirit of church domination, ever aspiring after universal subjugation. The blessings Britannia so ardently wished for, she nobly struggled for; and though often worsted in her arduous and virtuous conflicts, yet she always returned to the charge, with undaunted courage, still moving on, with cool, determinate perseverance, till the last of her monarchs (that am-

ed at arbitrary power) thinking it in vain to contend with a people of ſuch unconquerable ſpirit, and ſo reſolutely bent to attain what they judged their unalienable property, the full enjoyment of their ancient rights and privileges, wiſely withdrew from the land of freedom, to a region of ſlavery; where the pure flame of liberty had been long ſmothering, and was at laſt extinguiſhed; leaving his late ſubjects at leiſure to eſtabliſh their juſt claims to rational independency, upon a ſecure and permanent foundation.

THIS was ſoon moſt happily accompliſhed, by the GLORIOUS REVOLUTION; an æra, in the Britiſh annals, ever to be looked

up

up to with the moſt profound gratitude and admiration, by every true-born Briton; an event held in high veneration, by the wiſe, virtuous, and brave, in far diſtant climes. Great Britain, with pleaſure, ſoon beheld that as her liberty increaſed, ſo did her power, opulence, and commercial conſequence; till, in a ſhort period, ſhe arrived at that ſtate of tranſcendent greatneſs, as to become not only the wonder and admiration, but alſo the dread and envy of ſurrounding nations.

One, a mighty nation, a rival nation, long emulous of her growing fame, glory, and national proſperity, is now endeavouring to acquire, by the ſame arduous

means, the ſame virtuous ſtruggles, the ſame invaluable privileges.—What the event will be, time alone can diſcloſe.

WHAT our brave and noble anceſtors ſo glorioufly obtained, it is the duty of all their deſcendants ſtrenuouſly to maintain and defend; though it is the more immediate and peculiar one of the legiſlative body inceſſantly to watch over and protect all our noble rights and immunities; from thence there can be no juſt reaſon, ſurely, to apprehend any want of due care and circumſpection. We will therefore diſcard all painful ſolicitude, being confident that our national rights, invaluable as they are, cannot be in any real danger, as long

as

as they have, and shall be fortunate in having a STANLEY for an HEREDITARY GUARDIAN.

THOUGH it is impossible, my Lord, that this motley performance (which I have so anxiously wished to shelter under your kind and respectable patronage) should make your illustrious predecessors in family dignity more illustrious than MONA's praise has so long since gratefully resounded; yet it is possible that it may contribute to make their exemplary characters, and virtuous deeds, more generally known, and, consequently, more generally honoured and admired.

I SHALL esteem it one of the favourable and fortunate circum-

stances of my life, if I be able, in the smallest degree, to contribute thereto by this very humble tender to the public.

I am,

MY LORD,

With the greatest respect, esteem, and gratitude for all favours, (particularly the present honour done me)

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,

RICHARD TOWNLEY.

Douglas, (Isle of Man) April 18, 1790.

PREFACE.

THERE muſt be one then: that tyrant, CUSTOM, requires it. Yet the AUTHOR of the following JOURNAL *ever* has done, and *ſtill* does conſider a PREFACE as a very inſignificant, frequently a very impertinent, buſineſs; nay, often a ſhameful Impoſition upon the Public.

FOR, What is its uſe, or meaning?—Why; it is to inform thoſe who are to read the work, (to which it is made a

kind

kind of prologue) what they are to expect for their money. But when? Not before they have paid that money.—No; that would be *often* very imprudent; but after they have parted with their cash, when they are, in that respect, remidiless; for neither author or bookseller will refund, however discontented they may be with their bargain, *a single doit.* Surely this is shameful work; at least, it is not quite a fair, though too common a, mode of dealing with honest, unsuspecting folks.

The author of the Manks Journal *dares* to boast, that "were he as wealthy as a south-sea dream, *"—or possessed of a *moiety* of those treasures which an *honest* Nabob comes contentedly home with, from those *seductive* climes

"Where gold and diamonds grow, §"——

he would not, like *poor* S*k*s, be *pitifully*

* Dr. Young. § Mr. Gay.

generous,

generous, but freely return both principal and intereſt, to every diſcontented purchaſer: but that not being the caſe, his purſe, *at preſent*, being much at variance with his ſpirit, thoſe that chooſe to traffic muſt be content to do it in the common, uſual way; upon the ſame terms as they do for a lottery ticket, with ſome tempting hopes of gaining a prize, but with ſome forebodings too, that it will prove a blank.

But the Journaliſt, in order to convince ſuch readers as he may chance to have, that he is tolerably honeſt, as the world goes now, and ſcorns *palpable* deceit, ſends *this* Preface to announce what they *muſt not* expect, *accuracy*, either in deſign, method, or language; but a mere piece of patch-work; originally meant *ſolely* for his own ſatisfaction and aid of memory; or, perhaps, a temporary amuſement to a few *choice* friends, on his return to his native land.

It

IT may be then reaſonably enquired, Why is it given to the public? Anſwer; through the urgent requeſts of two or three friends, who ſtrongly flattered the author that it might be ſerviceable, at *this critical* ſeaſon eſpecially, to the intereſts of a people from which he had received many pleaſing inſtances of civility and hoſpitality; *perhaps* be more *extenſively* ſerviceable: at leaſt, and imperfect as it might be, it could not give any offence to *that* public, by offering ſuch a trifle to their notice.

To all candid readers, therefore, the only readers the author *wiſhes* for, he will briefly ſay, that if they ſhould meet with *ſeveral unavoidable* errors, and *involuntary* miſtakes,—for wilful ones he craves no mercy,—he hopes they will candidly overlook, or more generouſly pardon them.——Farewell.

Iſle of Man, April 19th, 1790.

An

An APOLOGY to the CANDID READER.

THE author is ſorry, that his Journal will make its appearance upon ſo coarſe a paper, eſpecially as he hopes it will be frequently taken up by ſoft and delicate hands. It has happened, through ſome miſtake, or miſhap, in the *making* of it; for it was intended to have been printed upon a *different* and *much ſuperior* kind; ſo much ſo, that it would have been rejected after the firſt ſheet was worked off, only it was found that waiting for a freſh ſupply would have occaſioned a very aukward delay to the publication, already rather too tedious, conſidering how much time has elapſed ſince the deſign was firſt noticed. But if that appearance were the only circumſtance that required an apology, the author *muſt* think himſelf *peculiarly* fortunate; but he is very conſcious, that many more are neceſſary: yet rather than trouble his readers with them, he will take refuge under

under the candid excuse made by Mr. Pope, for *such* imperfect performances:

"Whoever thinks a faultless piece to see,
"Thinks what ne'er was, nor is, nor e'er shall be.
"In ev'ry work regard the writer's end;
"Since none can compass more than they intend;
"And if the means be just, the conduct true,
"*Forgiveness, for some trivial faults, is due.*"

ESSAY ON CRIT.

It was the anxious wish, and main scope of the author, rather to elicit from his countrymen, by an easy, *novel* mode of information, than force, by a *formal* history, an acquaintance with a *sister* island; being now, in great part, a member of the British Empire; and which, it is hoped, will shortly become a valuable one; as he flatters himself that the ferment, which he perceived rising in the breasts of the inhabitants, when he left the island, on account of a serious business then pending before the British Parliament, is now, in a great measure, subsided; if not, the late severe affliction, which it has pleased Providence to lay upon the noble Duke, and the *exemplary*

conduct

conduct shewn by his Grace, upon that very trying melancholy occasion, ought to draw an oblivious covering over all past proceedings, and entirely efface every unfavourable impression made by difference of opinion. The minds of Mona's sons being in a state of quietude will, I trust, be directed to a spirited improvement of all those local advantages, which nature has kindly bestowed upon their native country.—Farewell.

Ambleside, Jan. 18, 1791.

ERRATA.

PAGE 3. last line but 2, for foilage, r. *foliage*.—39. l. 21. for Orcades, r. *Oreades*.—60. l. 6. for protenus, r. *protinus*. l. 7. read *Una foret, venit studio vi pontus, et undis*. l. 8. read *Littore diductas angustè*.—104. l. 21. for cincricius, r. *cinericius*.—135. l. 1. for 1790, r. 1789.—146. l. 22. for that he, r. *he that*.—171. l. 12. for on the dry, r. *on to the dry*.—191. l. 2. r. *opened; by*.—194. l. 21. for baskets, r. *buckets*.—196. l. last, for horned, r. *horrid*.—224. l. 14 r. *be a very*.—257. l. 7. for talks, read *heaps*.—287. l. 17. (and in other places) for Llanos, r. *Llanz*.—288. l. 8. r. *hanging, drop*.

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PAGE 5. last line but two, for foilage, r. foliage.—59. l. 21. for Orcades, r. *Oreades*.—60. l. 6. for protenus, r. *protinus*. l. 7. read *Una foret, venit medio vi pontus, et undis*. l. 8. read *Littore diductas angustè*.—104. l. 21. for cincricius, r. *cinericius*.—135. l. 1. for 1790, r. 1789.—146. l. 22. for that he, r. *he that*.—171. l. 12. for on the dry, r. *on to the dry*.—191. l. 2. r. *opened; by*.—194. l. 21. for baskets, r. *buckets*.—196. l. last, for horned, r. *horrid*.—224. l. 14 r. *be a very*.—257. l. 7. for talks, read *heaps*.—287. l. 17. (and in other places) for Llance, r. *Llanc*.—288. l. 8. r. *hanging, drop*.

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JOURNAL,

JOURNAL, &c.

BOOTLE, *April* 30th, 1789.

ARRIVED here last night with my good wife, whom I had not seen for near three *long* Years. This Cumbrian village is ſituated in a ſhallow vale, bounded on one ſide by the famous Blackcomb, ſuppoſed the *Moricomb* of the Romans; and, on the other, by the ſhore of the Iriſh channel, from which it is diſtant about two miles.

THROUGH the middle of the vale runs a brawling brook, which (in times of heavy rains) muſt be a very heady one, as it derives its ſource from the foot of the high mountain, at a very little diſtance from the village. The land in general, around this humble, peaceful place, is a light, friable ſoil, but not a barren

one; yielding pretty good crops of oats and barley, with ſome decent ones of wheat, and the graſs grounds promiſe a good crop of hay; as well as plenty of ſweet paſturage.

THIS diſtrict has however a ſteril appearance, from the want of timber trees, and the ſtunted growth of the thorns and other quick wood in the hedge-rows. But this is a defect in beauty, that muſt ever happen to a country ſo unprotected from the weſterly winds, when they blow ſo *immediately* from the ſea as they do upon the Bootle coaſt, without any high *intervening* land to break the force of them. The pernicious effect, which the ſpray of the ſea has upon all kinds of wood (that are fully expoſed to it) is a fact too well and too generally known, to need noticing.

DURING my morning's ſtroll, I obſerved one ſwallow; but, according to the old obſervation, "One ſwallow does not make ſummer." The wind blew exceedingly ſtrong and boiſterous, all the morning; then for a few hours (about mid-day) was ſoft and pleaſant; but ſhifting a point or two nearer the Eaſt, towards night, it became harſh and ungenial again.

May 1ſt. THE wind has blown furiouſly all night, and continues to do ſo this morning, which makes a very unpleaſant uſhering in of the

the MAY MORNING, that, according to the ideas and language of the poets, ought to breathe a *ſweet ſoftneſs* upon all the flowers of the ſpring.

THE following little ſonnet or ode, upon an *ideal* May-morning, is the humble attempt of a very youthful bard, a ſchool boy at Hawkſhead; one that I have a ſtrong claim to, and for whom I have an unbounded affection; being the neſtling of my flock, and one of the props of my declining years. God bleſs him!

I.

Now SPRING has reſum'd his domain,
And all things are ſprightly and gay;
No froſt now beſpangles the plain,
O! what month ſo happy as MAY!

II.

The buxom young maids and the ſwains
Are all met together to play;
How they ſkip and they dance o'er the plains!
O! what month ſo happy as MAY!

III.

The birds, the thick branches among,
How they warble and ſing all the day!
How they join in melodious ſong!
O! what month ſo happy as MAY!

IV.

The trees their freſh tints now renew,
And all their new foilage diſplay;
They ſweeten the air with perfume,
O! what month ſo happy as MAY!

The above petit compoſition, as one of the firſt efforts of ſuch a ſtripling bard, perhaps may be allowed ſome *little* merit, if parental partiality have not *entirely* warped my judgment.

A moſt wonderful and happy change in the weather, in ſo ſhort a ſpace as that of an hour! about eleven, the furious blowing *ſuddenly* ceaſed; the air became bland and temperate; the ſun ſhone out moſt clearly; and, from a winterly-morning, it became a ſummer-like day, both pleaſant and warm; well beſuiting the *firſt* of the May: the ſeaſon, according to the poets,

> "When ſhould meet the blooming maids
> "Of the valleys and the glades;
> "Eke the nymphs who haunt the fountains,
> "And the foreſts, and the mountains."

In a ſhort ſtroll after dinner, heard the Cuckoo for the firſt time; ſaw a white butterfly, for the firſt time alſo; and obſerved inſects and reptiles, of various kinds, *feebly* creeping forth from their winter cells; indicating, I hope, the approach of ſummer and ſummer weather.

May 2d. Brought on a ſad parting with my good wife; but part we muſt, for a ſeaſon; how

how long that ſeaſon of *cruel* ſeparation may *again* be, God only knows. After attending her four or five miles, in the chaiſe, a farewell, mutually affecting, was taken.

On my return towards Bootle, I accidentally caſt my eyes upon ſome rude ſtones, ſtanding in a ſmall ploughed field, directly oppoſite to Mr. Gibson's of Barfield, but on the contrary ſide of the road; and, on approaching them, was thoroughly convinced that they were the remains of a Druidical temple.

It is not quite ſo *perfect* a remains of one, as that near Keſwick, on the right-hand ſide of the road, leading from thence to Penrith; but ſtill *ſo perfect*, as evidently to denote its origin and uſe; without leaving the ſhadow of a doubt, in the minds of *thoſe who have been accuſtomed* to contemplate that wonderful and moſt ſingular religious ſyſtem, as well as the *peculiar* modes of worſhip, inſtituted by thoſe ancient bards and law-givers. A ſyſtem which gave them ſuch an *abſolute* ſway over the minds, manners, and paſſions of thoſe (of *all* ranks) wherever that whimſical eſtabliſhment prevailed, as the moſt deſpotic monarchs (in more modern times) could never obtain over their ſervile ſubjects, or vaſſals. The Popes, true ſucceſſors to the Druids, in *ſuperſtitious* rights and *myſterious* ceremonies, had, at *one* time, nearly the ſame ir-

reſiſtible influence, over all their true *orthodox* believers; Princes not excepted; but theſe halcyon days, for the Church of Rome, have been long over; and will never return, (it is to be hoped) to bring ſuch a ſecond diſgrace upon the reaſon and improved knowledge of mankind.

THE Druids performed their religious ceremonies in the open air, under the noble canopy of Heaven: thereby ſymbolically expreſſing, That the *univerſe* was the *only proper* Temple to contain the *univerſal* Lord, or firſt great Cauſe. St. STEPHEN, (the firſt bleſſed Martyr to our holy religion) after mentioning King SOLOMON's having built a houſe or temple to JEHOVAH, or the God of Iſrael, makes that noble obſervation: *howbeit, the Moſt High dwelleth not in temples made with hands. Heaven is my throne and earth is my footſtool: what houſe will you build me, ſaith the Lord?* Our ſublime poet, MILTON, introduces our firſt parents paying their grateful evening devotions to their *Great Creator*, in the *open* air.

" Thus at their ſhady lodge arriv'd, both ſtood,
" Both turn'd, and under open ſky ador'd
" The God that made both ſky, air, earth, and heav'n,
" Which they beheld; the moon's reſplendent globe,
" And ſtarry pole."

May

May 3d. THE wind blew very hard all night, and uſhered in a dark, cool, morning.—I attended Divine Service, which was very well performed, by Mr. Smith. Finding the chaiſe arrived, when I came out of Church, I very ſoon afterwards left Bootle, in order to ſave the tide paſſage at Ravenglaſs. The day clearing up made the drive along the Cumberland coaſt, to Whitehaven, very pleaſant, and more amuſing by affording proſpects of ſo many gentlemens houſes, from the road; ſeveral of them finely ſituated.

4th. A BRIGHT morning, but very cool; though the wind blows from the S. W.

WHITEHAVEN is a very large and populous place; yet not ſo handſome a town as I expected; though there is a general regularity in the ſtreets; in which are many good houſes, and ſome handſome churches. The houſe, that took my fancy moſt, was Mr. Littledale's, in Duke-ſtreet.

THE harbour is a noble one; capable of receiving vaſt numbers of veſſels *(a)* within its moles; which may boaſt more of uſefulneſs than ornament; being very far inferior in that reſpect, to the noble ones at Liverpool.

(a) Upwards of ſeven hundred frequent that port.

I PAID a viſit, the laſt afternoon, to a worthy lady, a pretty old acquaintance. I found her looking very well, but complaining of ſome rheumatic pains, which the uncommon ſeverity of the late *long* winter had brought on. Her amiable daughter looked charmingly.

5th. THE morning being very fine, for a wonder, I was in hopes to have gone on board the FLY packet, according to appointment yeſterday; but the Captain thinks the wind is not quite fair enough, in point; therefore wiſhes to take the chance of the evening tide, in hopes that the wind will *then* be *more* favourable for our paſſage to the Iſland.

DISAPPOINTED in ſailing, on ſo charming a morning, I ſolaced myſelf by taking a long walk upon the NORTH PIER, where it is very pleaſant; commanding ſuch extenſive ſea proſpects towards Scotland, and thoſe finely terminated by the many high mountains in that part of Britain, and which were, at that time, finely gilded by the morning-ſun.

IT is a pity there is not a cleaner and more commodious road to that noble pier head.

A LITTLE paſt eight in the evening, the call was, On board for the Packet Boat; and we unmoored a little after nine. Six paſſengers in the beſt cabin, three in the other. It was a very

a very bright, moonlight night, without a perceptible breeze of wind; ſo that we had nothing to rely on, for quitting the port and road, but the ebbing tide. Such a night was a high treat to me, from its novelty; therefore I kept upon deck till after twelve o'clock, entertaining myſelf with the ſoft, moonlight views of Whitehaven and its vicinity; the lofty ſhore to St. Bee's head; the more humble one more ſouthward, ſtretching out towards Bootle and Millam, terminated by Blackcomb, whoſe broad, ſwelling boſom (fronting the weſtern ocean) was moſt diſtinctly viſible. To the northward, I had a view of the Cumbrian coaſt by Workington and Maryport; with a very faint one of the Scotch mountains; diſtinguiſhable only from the horizon by the inequality of the line of termination. Soon after twelve, I retired to my humble bed; but, from being ſo much cramped by its narrow limits, from its ſmothering cloſeneſs, and the inceſſant complainings of ſome *ſuffering* paſſengers on board, I got but a very poor portion of comfortable ſleep, or refreſhing reſt; therefore, before ſix, I forſook my narrow cell, and went upon deck, to breathe and enjoy the pure and refreſhing air of the morning.

It was one of thoſe delightful May-mornings, that by giving a ſweet ſerenity to the mind, make

makes nature appear in her choiceſt colourings. I had a fine, diſtinct view of all the Cumbrian high ground and craggy mountains, being then ſweetly gilded by the morning rays. The many ſnow-ribs, thoſe relics of hoary winter, that ſtill chequered the ſteepy ſides of Borrowdale Pike, and ſome other towering neighbours, did away all the ideas of ſterility, by throwing ſuch a pleaſing luminous caſt over their natural coverings.

Upon aſking the Captain, how far we had got from Whitehaven; he replied "not above five, or ſix, miles;" though we had been under way more than nine hours; therefore, though ſo ſweet a day, for thoſe who were to travel by land, yet it was not a *deſirable* one for thoſe who were to travel by water; being nearly a dead calm. About ten, a tolerable breeze ſprang up, but not from the quarter we wiſhed; however we made ſo much way, as to get pretty cloſe in with the Iſland, by the Point of Ayre, about four in the afternoon; and, for ſome time, kept ſo cloſe to land as to be within a ſtone caſt of the bold ſhore. We then entered Ramſey Bay, and ſtood directly acroſs it, in order to double the eaſterly point called Maughold's Head; but before we could accompliſh that deſign, we were encountered, firſt by heavy ſqualls of wind and rain, pouring upon

upon us from the high mountain above us; and ſoon afterwards, by a tremendous ſtorm.

" *Eripiunt ſubito nubes cœlumque diemque,*
" *Noſtris ex oculis: ponto nox incubat atra.*"

" We ſtand aghaſt; while ſudden clouds ariſe,
" And raviſh from our ſight the ſplendour of the ſkies;
" Night hovers o'er the ſea."

To proceed further towards the port we wiſhed to attain, was entirely out of the queſtion; the wind and tide-current *directly* oppoſing our progreſs that way. The Captain's buſineſs, therefore, was to try to regain the bay, and get as near as he could to the town of Ramſey, where he knew there was good anchoring ground. But, to accompliſh that point, required a hard fight, and difficult ſtruggle for ſix or ſeven hours. About two in the morning, he reached the place he wiſhed to lay in; and then, the veſſel being at reſt, *we* got *ſome* reſt too, for five or ſix hours.

8th. We weighed anchor betwixt eight and nine, and had breeze enough juſt to carry us *where* the ſtorm found us; and, in a very ſhort time afterwards, were *perfectly* becalmed; there not being wind ſufficient to waft a feather; and, in that motionleſs ſtate, we remained nearly

nearly the whole day. The day, however, was delightfully fine and warm, and the ſurface of the ſea was like a perfect mirror.

THERE was no remedy but patience. In order to beguile the tedious hours, we got the men on board to muſter up a line and ſome hooks. Fortune favoured us very ſoon, in hooking ſome whitings; and at laſt a noble red mullet, being full three pounds weight. We were very hungry, (our ſea-ſtore having been exhauſted ſome time) therefore very deſirous to partake of *our* ſpoil; but the matter was, how to dreſs our fiſh; there being neither pan nor kettle on board to boil them in, ſave the tea-kettle, and that was *entirely* appropriated to the uſe of the females. At laſt, the mate produced a pair of old, broken fire-tongs, almoſt conſumed with ruſt. With ſuch a poor ſubſtitute for a grid-iron, a gentleman (from Caſtletown in the Iſland) contrived to broil a part of our welcome booty, exceedingly well; reſerving the remainder for the next day, to ſecure us againſt *abſolute* famine. The whitings were very ſweet and good, and the mullet the moſt delicious fiſh of *that very choice kind*, that I ever taſted, (either by land or water) exceeding in flavour any that I had ever met with, either upon the Hampſhire, or Dorſetſhire coaſt; at leaſt hunger gave it that preference.

WE

We were neceſſitated to lay by the whole evening, as well as the day. From twelve, to four in the morning, we made ſome progreſs; but then we were obliged to lay by *again*, in order to keep the little advantage we had gained by the dint of frequent tacking under a ſmall breeze. This was in a ſhallow bay oppoſite to the little town of Laxey; and there we had a moſt *diſagreeable* heavy ſwell for ſeveral hours; which brought thoſe of our paſſengers, that were got into a convaleſcent ſtate, into a moſt dreadful relapſe of ſea-ſickneſs; very diſtreſſing to themſelves, and painful to the feelings of others.

9th. We found it abſolutely in vain to attempt proceeding forward, whilſt the wind and tide-current were ſo ſtrong in oppoſition. We had nothing, therefore, for it, but with patience and contentment to wait for the *reflux* of a hard-running tide, to carry us down to Douglas. As ſoon as the turn of the tide was perceptible, we weighed anchor, and were taken down by the ebb-current, (in about five hours) to the entrance of the harbour; and were immediately landed by a pilot-boat; glad to get on ſhore by *any* convenience; being hungry and thirſty; faint and weary. I proceeded to the Liverpool Coffee houſe, where my wants from hunger and

and thirſt were ſoon cured, by a fine cod's head, (of the *rock* kind) and ſome excellent porter; and my other complaints were alſo ſoon loſt and forgotten, in a very good and well-aired bed.

THE rock-cod (which is ſo called from being generally found and taken at the foot of the rugged rocks, with which the Iſland is nearly encircled) muſt be a particular, or diſtinct ſpecies from the grey, or common ſort. When it is *firſt* taken out of the water, it is entirely of a beautiful red colour; is a noble, firm, and well fed fiſh; and very far ſuperior in flavour, according to my eſtimation, to any of the cod-tribe ever before taſted.

10th. GOT up early, and dreſſed for church. The duty was performed in the *old* chapel at Douglas; a very poor, low building, and but very indifferently fitted up. In the afternoon, paid a viſit to Mr. HEYWOOD, *(b)* and was moſt civilly received both by himſelf and the family. I found him confined, though rather upon the recovery, by a long and ſevere fit of the gout; a diſorder that ſeems to have ſeverely haraſſed his conſtitution, by frequent returns. He lives in a very good houſe, pleaſantly ſituated on the north ſide of the harbour, and adjoining to a ſmall, neat market-place.

(b) Many years *Deemſter* of the Iſland; the firſt judicial magiſtrate.

IN

In the evening, Col. Holwell was ſo obliging as to give me a call, and was very polite and civil. Wind S. W.

11th. Walked about moſt of the morning, to acquaint myſelf (in ſome degree) with the place I had fixed upon, for a temporary reſidence. Was much pleaſed with the diſcovery of a delightful ſand, to the north eaſt of the pier-head, extending all along the head of the bay, for about a mile and a half in length; and then finely terminated by ſome romantic rocks. To that ſand I ſhall often reſort, if the weather will permit me,—

"Both when the ſun darts forth his orient beams,
"And when, through evening clouds, he mildly ſtreams."

to enjoy my *favourite* exerciſe of walking.

In the evening took a ſtroll up to the New Church; a building that would do credit to any town, in *any* country; being handſomely built, neatly and elegantly fitted up, and ſweetly ſituated, upon a fine eminence, at the weſt end of the town; where it commands a moſt pleaſing view of the veſſels within the harbour, the bay, and the lofty promontory that bounds it to the South, called *Douglas Head*. It is furniſhed with a tolerable ſized organ; but the tone of it, and the execution upon it, I have

yet

yet to learn; the church being at preſent left without any officiating miniſter; the late curate being, happily for himſelf, tranſplanted into the rich, luxuriant, clerical region of *Durham*.

BESIDES the two Epiſcopalian places of worſhip, there is a chapel for thoſe of the Scotch Kirk, and another for the Methodiſts. —Wind W. S. by W.

12th. A DELIGHTFUL morning to uſher in *old* May-day, which ſeems to be conſidered here (as it is by whimſical people in more enlightened parts) as the *true* May-day; ſeveral parties of young folks, parading about the ſtreets with May-garlands, preceded by a drum, and followed by a great number of boys and girls, neatly dreſſed, and finely decked out with ribbonds of various colours.

I QUITTED my apartment at a very early hour; ſoon after five, mounted the barren promontory to the ſouth-weſt of the town; then went down to the rocky ſhore, and followed the high beech, till I arrived at the bold point called Douglas Head, where I ſaw ſeveral ſhell ducks, with a variety of other ſea-fowl, or ſea-birds.

DURING my very romantic excurſion, I had the pleaſure of ſeeing three large brigs, under

der full ſail, ſteering under a fine breeze from the N. E. towards Ireland. After breakfaſt, took a ſtroll to the head of the ſand, in order to inhale the freſh breeze, which is the *uſual* attendant of the coming-tide. In the afternoon waited on Mr. and Mrs. HEYWOOD. On my return from thence, I ſaw that very *extraordinary* perſonage, Mr. Liveſey, of Blackburne, on the oppoſite ſide of the harbour, near the Douglas-head coffee-houſe, where he reſides; (and has reſided a conſiderable time) under the adopted name of WARREN; but I find moſt people *here* know his *real* name, as well as his *real* character. He gave a dinner, yeſterday, to a party of gentlemen.

13th. A FINE bright morning at ſix o'clock. The wind, blowing freſhly from the eaſt, has cauſed a little ſwell in the bay. A walk of two hours, upon the charming ſand, gave me a very craving appetite for a very good breakfaſt; the bread and butter being both excellent, in this place. They are ſupplied with the latter from a Cumbrian farmer, who has taken a pretty large graſs farm, about a mile from this town; which, I dare ſay, will anſwer very well to him, his wife being a very *notable* Dairy woman. I learn, there is a very ſenſible tax, laid upon dogs in this iſland; ſix ſhillings Manks money, or

five and ſixpence Engliſh, upon every grey-hound, pointer, or ſpringing ſpaniel; three ſhillings on every hound; and ſixpence upon every other dog; a pack of hounds paying according to the number it conſiſts of, at three ſhillings per head. This *ſenſible*, annual tax is entirely appropriated toward the repair of the roads; and being aided by a moderate portion of ſtatute duty, as well as a ſhare of the tax on *Publicans*, takes away the neceſſity of turnpike tolls, and all other impoſitions; ſo that perſons may travel ſafely, pleaſantly, and expeditiouſly too, without paying ſo *grievouſly* for thoſe qualifications, as we do, in almoſt every part of England.

14th. A PRETTY heavy ſhower, at ſix, prevented me from taking ſo early a walk as I intended; but it cleared up before eight, allowing me to repair to my adopted walk, along the head of the bay, to enjoy one of the fineſt mornings that could be wiſhed for; the wind blowing ſoftly and ſweetly, from the mild point of ſouth weſt; and the ſun ſhining out (at intervals) with a genial warmth, unknown before in the year 1789.

THE day being ſo fine, I aſcended the lofty beach at the end of the ſand, by a winding, ſcrambling foot path, and that path ſoon conducted

ducted me (when I had attained the ſummit) to a very pleaſant chateau, finely ſituated, called the Grove, or *Hague*, belonging to the preſent collector at Douglas, a Mr. Beetham. From thence I proceeded to Kirk Onchon, (as I underſtood the name) which is but a very little way diſtant. On my return by the ſhore, obſerved ſix or ſeven ſwifts, winging their rapid flight, and with their ſhrill voices proclaiming, that ſummer is at hand. Several mergi, or cormorants, were alſo baſking upon the ſandy ſhore, enjoying the kindly warmth of the ſun.

THIS is the day appointed by the biſhop, as a day of thankſgiving in *this* iſland, for His Majeſty's happy recovery; having not received the proclamation, &c. in due time to accord with the *general* day appointed in England, for that purpoſe.—I have juſt heard, from good authority, that Mr. Liveſey left this place, ſome time in the night betwixt Monday and Tueſday; took a chaiſe to Peele, and there hired an open boat, to take him to the neareſt port in Scotland they could make. It is ſuppoſed he had received ſome intelligence the preceding evening, which gave him great alarm. There was a perſon with him, that was *ſuppoſed* to have been one of the clerks to the firm, or company: as he was ſometimes the oſtenſible ſervant; but, in *private* ſeaſons, the companion and friend.

15th. The morning ſeemed to promiſe a very fine day; but a kind of hazineſs ſoon came on, (obſcuring that brightneſs) which ſoon after ten was converted into a fog, (clouding the hills) and about twelve, turned to a very heavy rain; confirming the opinion, adopted in moſt mountainous countries, "that if the miſt of the morning aſcend up in heavy ſops, it will deſcend before night in very heavy drops."

A ſet of players are arrived here, from Ireland. They open the houſe this evening, with Mrs. Inchbald's new play, the Impostors. I was much preſſed to go, but declined it.

16th. A dark, cold morning; the wind blowing from a full northern point. About eleven, the ſun appearing, and diſperſing the heavy clouds which covered the tops of the mountains, the day became tolerably pleaſant and comfortable. It was the market day; but I cannot ſay any thing in praiſe of the market, or any of the proviſions expoſed to ſale there, ſave the lamb, which was very white and fat, well flavoured, and moſt delicate in ſize. It was attended, very early in the morning, by great numbers of the mountain-inhabitants, every one following a miſerably poor, and ill-looking animal, called a Manks-galloway, loaded with a pair of crates, (here called *Creels*) made

made entirely of ſtraw ropes, containing a few articles for ſale, as butter, eggs, chickens, &c.

In the evening the packet boat and a Scotch brig arrived in the harbour. Wind N. W.

17th. Rain fell heavily during the whole night, and continued coming down very plentifully moſt of this day. Dined, by invitation, at Mr. Heywood's, where I met a very agreeable party. Wind N. W. by W.

18th. A very cold, damp day; Wind full N. For the ſake of checking the progreſs of a very troubleſome cough, I kept cloſe to the fire-ſide, except for half an hour at mid-day, when I got a *ſhort* ſtroll upon the ſands; being obliged to retire very ſoon, by the approach of a ſhower of hail and rain, from the mountains, which was ſucceeded by others, more furious than the firſt.

19th. A sharp northerly wind in the morning; very unfavourable to vegetation. The ſun breaking out about eleven, enticed me out to take a little exerciſe upon the ſands, where (by walking very briſkly) I could juſt keep myſelf *tolerably* warm. Every one I have met with, that attended the play-houſe laſt night, ſpeaks highly of the performance.

20th. A PLEASANT morning, though the wind blows from an eaſterly point, and with a very freſh breeze: yet there is that agreeable mildneſs in the atmoſphere, that makes me hope, and think, the wind will ſoon go about to the ſouth.

I TOOK a walk to the Nunnery, which is a moſt delectable ſituation, and the grounds about it highly improved, by a ſpirited mode of cultivation. The Houſe, a good one, is finely emboſomed in wood, enjoying a ſouth eaſt aſpect, which gives it a perfect command of the harbour, and a charming peep into the bay. To thoſe advantages may be added, a fine clear trout-ſtream, winding agreeably in front, and a noble promontory, well ſkirted with wood, to effectually guard it from every furious blaſt, engendered by the great weſterly ocean. The gardens are very extenſive for *this* country; laid out in a pleaſing, rural ſtyle, with a conſiderable degree of taſte; and no pains, or expence, *ſeem* to be ſpared, by the preſent owner, to procure a moſt plentiful ſupply for the table, of all the culinary vegetables that are now moſt coveted. A very decent ſupply of fruit too may be expected, from a noble range of walls; ſome ſmall (but well managed) ſtoves, and a large covering of hot-bed frames, where the melon plants are very fine, and *uncommonly* forward,

ward, *conſidering* how cold the ſeaſon has been.—In ſhort, the Nunnery is a place that would do credit to any country. The only remains about it, of antient piety, is the carcaſe of the chapel:—

"Where meek-ey'd Nuns their painful vigils kept."

That precious relic will, I truſt, be carefully preſerved, from *utter* ruin. I returned about one, much pleaſed with the *unexpected* entertainment I had met with.

21ſt. A gloomy morning, with a full S. wind.—From the cloud-capped appearance of the hills, I ſuſpected that heavy rain would ſoon come on; and ſo it happened. It is an obſervation here, That, "*when* Mona's *mountains wear dirty night caps, in a morning; you may expect plenty of rain, to waſh them clean before night.*"

22d. A dark foggy morning, and very damp. The wind blows from a direct contrary point to what it did yeſterday, making the atmoſphere feel very raw and unpleaſant. The whole iſland ſeems enveloped in a cloſe, gloomy fog;—"obſcuro aere ſeptus;"—hid in ſuch a veil of clouds, that wanderers upon the main

can *hardly diſcern her*, till *cloſe in* with her bold, rocky ſhores. The packet boat arrived off the harbour, at five this morning; but too late to get in with the tide.

23d. A VERY pleaſant, mild, growing morning; the wind blowing full from the weſt, and with a ſpring-like ſoftneſs. A fine large brig, in ballaſt, made her appearance about ſix, and ſoon croſſed the bay, in her way from Ireland to Whitehaven.

24th. MOST *variable* weather in this iſland. The wind has ſhifted to the N. E. blowing very cold, and making the morning not only unpleaſant, but highly uncomfortable too, eſpecially to invalids. Rain began to fall very early in the day, and continued to pour down upon us abundantly, the whole day and evening.

25th. AN exceedingly wet morning, making the channels in the ſtreets run down like rivulets. I find the preſent humidity of the air to be very unfavourable to my *breaſt* complaint, and *ſpaſmodic* cough; from which I had been ſo happily relieved, and almoſt entirely releaſed, by the ſalutary air of Boulogne. If I do not find an alteration ſoon, for the better, I muſt

muſt quit this humid clime, and ſeek out a drier, in ſome other country.

26th. THERE were ſome very heavy ſhowers in the night, which are ſucceeded by a dropping morning. The wind the ſame as yeſterday, S. E. with a very heavy atmoſphere, preſaging a farther deluge in the iſland. If the ſoil of it were not as *thirſty*, and as *greedy* of ſuckage, as many of its inhabitants, (reſiding in this part of it) it muſt be ſo overſoaked with moiſture, that it would require a *whole* ſummer's warmth, to ſubdue its chilly powers, ſo inimical to vegetation. I mean to keep very much within doors, till it pleaſe God to ſend us a bleſſed change; till he permit the glorious luminary to ſhine upon us propitiouſly; cheering our hearts, exhilarating our ſpirits, and invigorating all our animal functions; at the ſame time, making all nature ſmile, and ſetting the ſteaming powers of vegetation in full motion and energy.

27th. A WARM, pleaſant morning; though the wind blows from N. E. This ſhore yields vaſt quantities of ſea-weed, and the inhabitants are pretty induſtrious in collecting it; but they do not make it up into compoſt, in the ſame *judicious* manner, as practiſed in many other places; letting it lie for a conſiderable time,

on

on the dry ſandy ſhore; by which delay, much of the marine ſalt is inevitably loſt. Nor will it ferment ſo well, with the dung, as when they are *both* laid *freſh* together.

THIS coaſt ſeems to be furniſhed with all the uſual kinds of ſea-birds, and in the greateſt plenty. I expected, on coming here, to have met with ſome of that rare and extraordinary ſpecies of ſea rock-birds, called the Puffin, on the bold ſhores, about *this* ſide of the iſland; but am told, that they chiefly, if not altogether, inhabit the *high* and *rugged* cliffs that encircle the CALF OF MAN; a diſtinct iſland from this of MONA; being ſeparated from it by a narrow channel or ſound;—That they (together with a large colony of rabbits) are the only living creatures, that claim a right of poſſeſſion to that ſolitary clod; ſave the warrener and his old wife, who live there to protect them; both of them being property of conſiderable value.

WHAT Judge Jefferies (of infamous memory) ſarcaſtically ſaid, reſpecting the noble county of Norfolk, "That God Almighty had not only "ſhewn his wiſdom, but his providential good-"neſs too, by ſtocking it with the only crea-"tures that could poſſibly *thrive* in it; Attor-"neys and Rabbits; animals that bite *cloſe* and "*ſharp*;"—may, with far greater juſtice, be applied to the iſland I now reſide in; being moſt

moſt plentifully ſupplied with *both* thoſe kinds of *ſharp-biting* animals. The former, however, are found to be far more peſtiferous to the community, than the latter; for what Mr. Jenyns ſays of the brothers of the quill, in general, may be applied with the greateſt propriety to thoſe of the profeſſion, within Mona's bounds:

"Attornies, for a barley ſtraw,
"Whole ages hamper folks in law."

—Law-ſuits (according to my information) being frequently ſo ſtrongly entailed upon eſtates, as to deſcend with them, in a kind of *hereditary* ſucceſſion, to the third and fourth generation; eſpecially of thoſe who *cordially* hate one another;—too often the caſe, I fear, in this *idle* place; where people quarrel, for want of *better* employment; and where there are people always ready to be found, well-ſkilled in reviving the *dying* embers of family feuds.

28th. A SOFT mild morning, though the wind blows from an eaſterly point, which always fills this harbour full of veſſels; and when there, keeps them cloſely pent up. The Earl of Surrey (the new packet boat from this place to Liverpool) has been detained four days in port, by the conſtant blowing of a wind ſo unfavourable to her paſſage; as have a great number

ber of ſmart paſſengers, in this town, waiting moſt *anxiouſly* for her ſailing. According to a very old obſervation, it is a bad wind indeed, that blows nobody good; thoſe in the *public* line will not chide its obſtinacy, if it blow the ſame way, for a month longer.

29th. A VERY damp morning, after a very wet night. There were ſome ſtrong gales of wind, about the time of high-water, which muſt have occaſioned a pretty conſiderable ſwell in the bay; as I could hear the waves daſh *ſtrongly* againſt the pier-head, as I lay awake in bed, betwixt one and two this morning. Betwixt twelve and one, the ſun ſeemed to have an entire conqueſt over the naſty black fog, that had been brooding over us, for ſeveral hours; but the ſea-bred monſter (at intervals) returned to the charge, and made victory doubtful; till a fine evening breeze ſprang up, which put an end to the ſtrife, enabling the noble luminary to deſcend upon a moſt beautiful horizon; both glorious and victorious!

30th. BETWIXT ſix and ſeven, there was a watery appearance, and ſoon afterwards ſome ſlight ſprinklings of rain. The wind was at S. E.; ſo that all veſſels, bound to any ſouthern port, deſpaired of getting out.

THE

THE Liverpool packet boat, the paſſengers being extremely impatient to get away, did leave the harbour about three; but without any *well-grounded* hope of making her paſſage, in any *reaſonable* time. At the cloſe of the day, ſhe was not two miles beyond the Head. The evening, being very fine and warm, tempted me to take a pretty long ramble up the pleaſant vale, above the town.

31ſt. A PRETTY fine morning early, though there was a very heavy fog upon the hills, which ſoon came down in drops; for before I could finiſh my uſual morning's exerciſe, it came down ſo plentifully that I ſhould have got a thorough ſoaking, if I had not taken refuge, in the miſerable hut of a poor old fiſherman, ſituated on the ſandy ſhore. Though the outſide of the very humble dwelling ſtrongly beſpoke wretchedneſs, yet I found chearful contentedneſs reſiding within; for envy had never dared to enter the *lowly* door:

" *Nil admirari, &c.* HOR.

" Not to admire, is all the art I know
" To make men happy, and to keep them ſo.
" Plain truth, dear Murray, needs no flowers of ſpeech;
" So take it, in the very words of GREECH."

So

So thought, and ſpoke, both the Roman and the Engliſh bard; and ſo will every man of plain, good ſenſe think, who has ſeen and known *much* of the world, and *coolly* attended to its uncertainties; from which no rank or fortune can ſhield "man that is born of a woman."

The Scotch ſloop went out, for Liverpool, taking two gentlemen of our ſociety away; Capt. Stewart and Mr. Mackay.

Attended ſervice, in the New Church, as ſoon as I had taken my leave of them. I found it pretty well filled, with many decent, ſmart, well dreſſed people. The ſervice was performed very decently, by a curate from out of the country. The ſinging, accompanied by a *well toned* organ, (for I can now ſpeak of the inſtrument) paſſed off very well. It is a comfortable church; I cannot ſay the ſame of the other; but it might be made much more ſo, if there were caſements on each ſide, to let in a thorough current of freſh air. How an advantage ſo obvious, and ſo deſirable, could have ſo long eſcaped the notice of thoſe who *conſtantly* reſort there, is wonderful; but the inhabitants, of this iſland, ſtrongly reſemble the French in many things; in nothing perhaps more than in want of contrivance. Would it be believed, (if I were to report it in my own country)

country) that though I have ſeen ſcores, and ſcores, of ſaſh-windows, yet I have never ſeen a *ſaſh-cord*, to any one of them. If they want them open, they prop them open.—The poor Collector is dead.

June 1ſt. A remarkably foggy morning, very diſtreſſing to perſons troubled with breaſt complaints, or coughs. I well knew what the ſtate of the air was, before I got up; even before the time of ſun-riſing, by feeling it very oppreſſive to free, eaſy reſpiration, even in a warm, dry room. The morning (about nine) cleared up very much, when my civil, chearful hoſt gave the ſtrongeſt aſſurances, that the remainder of the day would not only prove clear and pleaſant, but warm too. On the ſtrength of theſe aſſurances, my agreeable companion, Mr. Mc. Adam, and myſelf, determined upon going to Caſtletown; taking the great annual fair of Kirk Santon, in our way; in order to ſee the very whimſical appearance, and droll humours of a *Manks* fair.

When we got a little way from this place, the day improved exceedingly, the ſun ſhining out very frequently, and with a conſiderable degree of warmth; and continued to be ſo favourable to us, till we got within two miles of Caſtletown, when we found ourſelves, all at once,

once, obſcured by a black, ſtinking ſea-fog, preventing us from ſeeing the country round us at all; an object we had ſtrongly in deſire; having been impreſſed with a belief, That the ſoutherly part of the iſland would exhibit to us by *far the beſt cultivated ſoil* of all Mona. We were obliged to ſubmit to the diſappointment, and proceed forward in the horrid, dark gloom, towards the capital, where a very fine road ſoon conducted us.

We ſtopped at the very firſt houſe of approach; a very decent, comfortable one, kept by a Mrs. Redfearn, a very old woman. Whilſt our dinner was preparing, we took a ſtroll about the town, which we found very neat and clean; well paved, and tolerably well built; but very ſmall, in compariſon of Douglas; being one third, at leaſt, inferior in ſize, as to the number of houſes, or inhabitants; though covering nearly an *equal* ſpace of ground. The Caſtle ſtands in the centre of the place, cloſe to the poor, contemptible harbour: it is a very irregular building, though tolerably large; viſibly conſtructed at many different times, and for different uſes.

There is a handſome opening behind it, terminated by a neat, ſmall church, or chapel, which forms one ſide of a ſmall quadrangle; and that ſerves, both for a market-place, and a parade,

parade, for the troops in the Caſtle-barracks, now conſiſting of two companies of ſoldiers. The other company is cantoned within the different towns in the iſland; to aſſiſt the cuſtom-houſe officers againſt the ſmugglers, that are ſtill hovering about the iſland; though the illicit trade carried on, by thoſe daring people, is very trifling to what it was before government became poſſeſſed of the port duties.

CASTLETOWN is ſituated on the north-ſide of a ſmall beautiful bay, with a very rocky ſhore betwixt the town and the deep water; conſiſting of a baſtard marble, of a very dark colour, but very much interſected with lines of white ſpar. That ſtone yields a very good lime; but it requires a good deal of fuel to burn it. It is ſent in boats to different parts of the iſland, where many lime kilns are erected, eſpecially in the neighbourhood of Douglas. Many perſons think they can have their lime (ready burned) from Whitehaven, upon full as good terms. It is certain, that conſiderable quantities are imported from thence into this harbour.

THERE is a quarry of the very fineſt black-marble, about a mile and a quarter north-weſt of that town. The noble flight of ſteps, at ST. PAUL'S, which are of black-marble, came from that quarry; being a preſent, from the *good*

old BISHOP, to the DEAN and CHAPTER of that noble cathedral.

WE found very comfortable entertainment, and a clean houſe; our ſtay however, at Mrs. Redfearn's, was but ſhort; wiſhing to ſee a little more of the humours of the fair, in our way home; which was through the large village of Balla Salley; very famous throughout the whole iſland, for being the *grand* ſcene of law-litigations.

SOON after we had paſſed that village, (ſo well, and ſo bitterly remembered, by many of Mona's ſons)—and

" —Where ſuch numbers various ways do run,
" Some to undo, and ſome to be undone.
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
" Purſuing and purſu'd, each others prey;
" Till DEATH, that mighty hunter, earths them all."

THE evening cleared up; a fine breeze, from the mountain of South Barule, driving the black vapour back to its native element. The pleaſing diſperſion of the fog gave us an opportunity of adverting to the nature of the ſoil, and the advantages taken (if any) of its ſuperior fertility. We could perceive ſome *few* efforts, towards a ſpirited cultivation; but there was ſuch a manifeſt want of attention, to the *cleanneſs* of their crops, as took away *moſt* of the local merit.

WE

We ſaw ſeveral houſes, in a ſtile above that of farm houſes, and many that were *viſibly* intended for that *uſe only*; and ſome of thoſe appeared tolerably well built, and to be, in ſome degree, comfortable; but greatly were we hurt to ſee, at the ſame time, ſuch numbers of the moſt miſerable cottages, or rather huts, interſperſed amongſt them; making the moſt unfavourable impreſſion upon us, relative to the poverty of the country; and exciting no ſmall ſhare of compaſſion, for the wretched inhabitants of ſuch miſerable dwellings; from whence the duſky ſmoke was conveyed, by a ſmall firkin, or barrel, but frequently only out of the door; and where a pitiful window (of not more than half a yard ſquare) gives the *ſole* glimmering of Heaven's kind light. Yet chearfulneſs, no doubt, often dwells there; contentment, I truſt, generally; for that is one of the humble bleſſings of the poor; which Divine Providence rarely withholds from the very loweſt ranks of mankind; thereby giving them an equivalent in that general diſtribution of happineſs, which flows from the Divine Goodneſs, as the common father of all.

The walls of thoſe wretched habitations (ſeldom above ſeven feet high) are ſometimes conſtructed of rough, unhewn ſtone; but far more generally, of ſods. The roofs of them

all are thatched with ſtraw; but ſo ſlightly laid on, that they are under a neceſſity of ſecuring the light covering in its place, by a number of ſtraw ropes, drawn over the roofs, and faſtened by pegs into the tottering walls.

The appearance of ſo many deſpicable human dwellings, as are ſcattered over every part of the iſland, gives a general idea of poverty *in the extreme;* and the great want of timber-trees, coppice-wood, and even quick hedges, as general a one of ſterility. Almoſt all their fences are narrow earth-banks; ſometimes bare, and ſometimes covered with a few ſtraggling whins, ſuffered to ſhoot at random. The earth (of which thoſe banks are made) is of ſo very looſe a nature, as to be continually tumbling down, and, of courſe, wanting continual reparations. When in the beſt plight, they are but very poor guards to property; conſequently frequent treſpaſſings muſt happen, betwixt near neighbours, (and vexatious lawſuits be the *unavoidable* conſequences) if they did not uſe that neceſſary precaution of hoppling all their ſheep; and frequently their little horſes too. Such a collection of cows and poor galloways (chiefly from the mountains) as was exhibited at the fair, ſurely was never ſeen before collected together, within European ground. To have purchaſed the whole of both kinds,

kinds, at forty ſhillings per head, would not have been a *deſirable* bargain. The annual meeting is holden in a field, a full quarter of a mile from the kirk that gave the name and riſe to it; nor is it much nearer to any *human* habitation. On two ſides of a barren field, on a dreary ſide bank too, are erected temporary booths, made up of ſods, and covered with tattered remnants of old ſail-cloths. Theſe are for the reception of the mixed multitude reſorting there; ſome *few* for buſineſs; but far the greateſt number on the call of amuſement; by partaking in the joys of a country-wake, and getting horribly drunk. Many of them had partook very deeply of that *firſt* delight of a *Manxſman*, Grog; being ſeen by us, in our return to Douglas, either ſtaggering along the road, or in a deep ſleep of intoxication, by the ſides of it.

2d. A VERY cloſe, dark fog, making the air feel very chilly and uncomfortable: my morning walk was, therefore, a ſhort one; being glad to get within the warmth of a good coal fire; over which, I was going to partake of a very comfortable breakfaſt, with two of my *uſual* companions at meals: when, lo! all at once flew open the dining-room door, and in at it ſtalked (horridly grim) the figure of a man,

above ſix feet high, who (after making a ſhort nod) called out loudly to the chamber-maid, "Where are my young men? why don't they "come up here? this is the proper breakfaſt "room for *gentlemen*."

One of my companions, who knew the gentleman, (an honour I had no claim to) aſked him, if he would allow him to give him a diſh of tea?—His reply was "No,—d–mn the tea; a meat-breakfaſt was the proper *morning food* for *men*; and he had already taken care to ſecure one." I ſoon found the extraordinary perſonage was well known in my hoſt's family; and looked up to, as a gentleman of great conſequence in the iſland; being called *captain* by one, *'ſquire* by another, and *juſtice* by a third. I thought myſelf, therefore, very fortunate in having ſuch a complete trait of a captain, a Manks 'ſquire, and a Manks juſtice; and all compriſed in one identical perſon.——The Argyle ſloop arrived about five.

3d. A dark, damp, cold morning. Wind N. W. The remains of the poor collector were carried (about eight) towards Kirk Onchon, in great funeral ſtyle; and attended by a great number of perſons. Poor man! he had been long afflicted with that very diſtreſſing complaint, the dropſy of the breaſt. His cheſt

cheſt was ſo much filled with water, as to make reſpiration, for ſome time paſt, moſt difficult and diſtreſſing; and which terminated his exiſtence, (as is the uſual way in that complaint) by a fit of ſuffocation.

THE common people of this place are, certainly, of a moſt lazy, indolent diſpoſition; lying very late in a morning, and, when aroufed by neceſſity, from the bed of ſloth, going to their ſeveral employments, with *a moſt viſible* reluctance. This is a character *uniformly* given of the labouring people in general, belonging to the iſland, by thoſe who have long known them. However, it is agreed by *all*, that there is one kind of buſineſs, in which they engage with the greateſt alacrity: the Herring-fiſhery. During that buſy ſeaſon, not the leaſt ſign of ſupineneſs, or indolence, is obſervable in thoſe who engage in it: on the contrary, unremitting induſtry, and the moſt active ſpirit of enterpriſe, pervade, invigorate, and enliven the whole maſs of the people, that devote themſelves to that hurrying, and (ſometimes) dangerous, employment.

THERE are not leſs than four hundred prodigious fine boats (belonging to the people of the iſle) that are engaged yearly in that buſineſs. Thoſe boats are manned with ſtout hands, from five, to ſeven, or eight, in a boat.

The gains, from the fishery, are sometimes enormous; but, in some *untoward* seasons, very trifling: *hardly* paying the charges of fitting out: yet in this, as in all other lotteries, the flattering hope of gaining a considerable prize buoys up their spirits, and induces them most *freely* to hazard both life and property, in their only *favourite* pursuit.

As soon as the season is *entirely* over, they retire to their respective homes, to enjoy the fruits of their toil; and indulge themselves (with the most unbounded latitude) in the only pleasures of life which *they* think worthy of attaining, (by the sweat of the brow) intemperance, sleep, and indolence. In the torpid state arising from such indulgencies, they are sure to continue as long as there are any remains of their earnings; till those are *entirely* exhausted, it is in vain to solicit numbers of them to the most easy, or the most necessary, kinds of labour: frequently refusing (according to *credible* information) their aid in getting in the fruits of the ground; even in a tickliſh harveſt-time.

For the above reasons, many sensible, thinking people, those of landed-property especially, are induced to wish that the herrings would (in their southern emigrations) find out a new route, and steer their *annual* course very far distant from *their* shores; believing, that if the common

common people were deprived of that ſource of profit, and employment, they would be eaſily led into habits of induſtry, both more *uſeful* to the public, and more *certain* of gain to themſelves; the conſequence of which would be, a better cultivation of all the lands in the iſland; an improvement in their preſent ſtock of cattle; a conſiderable extention of their preſent linen manufactory; and, perhaps, the eſtabliſhment of others, equally beneficial; making the iſle much leſs dependent upon other countries, for many of the neceſſaries of life, and infuſing an active ſpirit of induſtry through the general maſs of the people.

Were the conſequences *certain to be* as above ſurmiſed and fondly expected, I ſhould be induced to join moſt cordially, though only a ſojourner, in the patriotic wiſh: but when it is calmly conſidered, with what extreme difficulty long eſtabliſhed cuſtoms and prejudices are ſubdued, even ſuch as are manifeſtly abſurd and hurtful,—how extremely difficult it is, even to check the growth of evil habits, particularly thoſe of intemperance and idleneſs, and to work an entire change in the habitudes and diſpoſitions of the collective body, in *any* ſtate or people,—the accompliſhment of ſuch a wiſh would probably be attended with many hurtful conſequences; ſome perhaps

perhaps alarming ones; for, deprived of that uſual ſource of ſubſiſtence, the poor labouring people, or paupers of the iſland, might be induced to follow the courſe of the herrings, to ſome more *fertile* country. Natal attachment (that providential check upon rambling) would have little or no influence upon people *ſo circumſtanced* as they are; their wretched habitations could have no allurements whatever; for they could hardly be worſe accommodated, in that reſpect; wherever they went; even if compelled (for a while) to become joint tenants with the beaſt of the foreſt, in dens, caves, and holes of the rocks. And as to the main articles of ſuſtenance, they are, in them, as far removed from luxuries as almoſt any people upon the face of the globe. Their bread, that ſtaff of life, is made of coarſe barley meal, or flour, kneaded and baked into ſodden cakes. Their other uſual articles of food, potatoes and butter-milk; and, when an indulgence towards *homely* luxury is allowed by the frugal matron, it is barely by the addition of two or three red herrings, to reliſh their wonted allowance.

THIS laſt, if I can give credit to creditable people, is the *only* fare, even of the mountain farmers, nineteen days out of twenty; butchers meat

meat never entering their doors, except at two ſtated ſeaſons, Chriſtmas and Eaſter.

If the proprietors, and ſubſtantial renters, of eſtates *ſeriouſly* wiſh to convert the poor peaſants, from being (as they are now) ſuch ſlothful, to active, induſtrious, uſeful members of ſociety; they muſt begin the laudable work, by *bettering* the condition of thoſe poor, miſerable wretches; by building them more comfortable and decent habitations to dwell in; by tempting them to activity, with the offer of conſtant employment, where the labour is not too ſevere *at firſt*, and the wages equal to the exigencies of their families.

Many ſources of employment point out themſelves very plainly to an attentive eye, in the various and neceſſary improvements of draining, fencing, banking, embanking, breaking up and clearing the ground from trumpery productions, and peſtiferous weeds. Such uſeful improvements would find ſufficient daily work, for double the number of labourers that are *now* in the iſland.

Draining, where a ſuperfluity of moiſture prevails, (chilling the ground, and oppreſſing vegetation) is the *true foundation* of all rational improvement upon lands of that nature. How many hundred acres of fine holm-land are to be ſeen, in that charming vale above the Nunnery,

nery, entirely covered with ruſhes, and other uſeleſs, aquatic plants; neither fit for hay nor paſturage! Such is the miſerable plight of almoſt all the level grounds, on the banks of both the ſtreams, extending a conſiderable way up towards the hills. Yet thoſe grounds (after proper draining) would become almoſt invaluable, by yielding *luxuriant* crops of the fineſt hay. Thouſands and thouſands of acres of boggy or moraſs ground (now viſible in every part of the iſland) aſk the ſame kind of help. There are many acres rendered entirely uſeleſs, being mere ſtoneries, for want of proper banking (or rather embanking) and ſecuring againſt the river's overflowings, in rainy ſeaſons.

A BETTER mode of fencing would, in a great meaſure, dry up thoſe fountains of *bitter water*, which cauſe to ſpring up, in every pariſh, ſo many feuds, animoſities, and diſſentions amongſt friends and near neighbours, (thereby poiſoning all the *ſweets* of ſociety) by preventing the frequency of cattle's treſpaſſings, and the conſequent interference of buſy, meddling people, *ever too ready* to perpetuate ſuch unhappy differences, by lingering and expenſive litigations.

THE very great advantage of breaking up, clearing, and bringing into proper tillage, the many

many thouſand acres of baggage, uſeleſs land, to be ſeen wherever you direct your ſteps, is too notorious to want any explanation. However, I muſt ſet down, that the money expended in an improvement of that kind, or any of the others before noticed, would (if conducted with judgment) pay cent per cent, in a country where labour is ſo cheap, and the rents of improved eſtates advancing ſo rapidly: but the employment of the poor, in conſtant, uſeful labour, ſhould be the primary object of concernment, with the *public ſpirited* of the iſland. Whilſt they remain in their *preſent* deplorable condition, being not better ſheltered from the inclemencies of the ſeaſons, than the beaſts of the fields, that graze around their execrable huts: and are ſcarcely better fed than their domeſtic animals;—as long as they may truly obſerve, of their own miſerable being, what the unhappy old *Lear* does of the madman's, (juſt bolted from his cave of famine) "Thou "oweſt the worm no ſilk, the beaſt no hide, "the ſheep no wool, the cat no perfume:" abjectneſs and diſpondency muſt be too often the conſequence;—and where they inhabit, a ſpirit of induſtry will be looked for in vain: there being no ſpur to it, not even "hope, "that comes to all,"—and is "the *laſt* refuge of "the miſerable." But let theſe poor creatures

be

be once in poſſeſſion of decent habitations, ſuch as are fit to ſhelter human beings; let them but once taſte ſome of the moſt humble comforts of life, they will be ſoon aroufed to labour, in order to preſerve *thoſe* comforts; and, in a ſhort time, be inſpired with an honeſt, virtuous pride, to increaſe the number of them afterwards; and carefully to preſerve them, that they may entail thoſe bleſſings upon their *beloved* offspring, which they themſelves ſo long ſtood in need of; but, alas! never knew!

4th. A VERY bluſtery morn, portending unfavourably for the diſplay of the fire-works; both thoſe in the town, and thoſe intended to be exhibited, by the Attorney-General, on a lofty eminence near his houſe.

ABOUT eleven, my very civil hoſt came up to my apartment, with a very fine rock cod in his hand, about eight pounds weight; for which, he ſaid, he had given double the *uſual* price, viz. one ſhilling; and he was induced to do ſo, that he might ſhew me the moſt beautiful fiſh of the kind *he* had ever ſeen, ſince he came to the iſland. It was all over of a beautiful red colour, except the head, which had more of the vermilion tint; a beautiful vivid ſtreak, both above and below the dorſal fin, and a ſimilar one on each ſide, from the gills to the tail, added much

much to the generally pleasing appearance of the fish. The belly was entirely speckled with small beautiful spots, of a bloom and snow white cast, intermixed.

As the day began, so it ended; which greatly impeded the display of the fire-works; disappointing the inhabitants very much, by not receiving that degree of entertainment which was kindly intended to be given them, by the gentlemen, who provided them chiefly for that purpose. What became of the Attorney General's I do not yet know.

5th. It continued very stormy, during the whole night, and blows very hard this morning, from the N. E. Clearing up about eleven, and growing moderate, I took a walk along the Peel road, for about three miles, till opposite Mr. Dundass's neat country-house.

On my return, went into the church-yard at Kirk-Bradden, which is a very beautiful, romantic situation; employing myself for about an hour, in reading epitaphs and other denotations of mortality, on the tomb and grave-stones, with which the place is most plentifully stored; being the chief repository of the dead, not only for the populous town of Douglas, but also for an extensive district, around the church. One stone informed me,

me, That its preſent peaceful inhabitant had ſtruggled through a buſtling world, to the very advanced age of ninety-ſix! Two pointed out ſtrong inſtances of longevity, by each denoting an attainment to the good old age of eighty-eight; another eighty-ſix, and ſeveral *about* eighty. From ſuch documents, I meant to form a calculation, reſpecting the *general* longevity of the inhabitants, who claim the right of interment there: but there were ſuch numbers of ſtones, without any particular information with regard to age; and ſo many humble mortals had been laid down to reſt, without any protection to their duſt, that I found it impoſſible to form a judgment of that ſort, with any degree of preciſion. Mr. Moore, a late rector of *St. Bride's Kirk*, and many years ſchoolmaſter at Douglas, has paid a tribute of approbation to a beloved ſcholar, who was ſnatched away, in the firſt budding towards manhood: by the following inſcription.

" John Tiffin, of Great Clifton, in Cumber-
" land.
" Inſigni pietate puer
" Genio felici
" Et pro Ætate
" Ling: Lat: Græc: doctus.
" Filio privigno poſuit P. Moore."

THERE

THERE is a ſmall marble-monument, in the chancel of the Old Chapel, in this town, with the following inſcription upon it:

"Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Philip Moore, rector of Kirkbride, and officiating miniſter of the chapel of Douglas. His education was completed, under the auſpices of the good Biſhop Wilſon; and he made a grateful return for this ſingular advantage, by contributing to the virtuous education of youth; being above forty years maſter of Douglas-ſchool. He was likewiſe principally concerned in reviſing the memorable tranſlation of the Holy Scriptures *into the Manks Language*: for which, by his learning, he was eminently qualified. He was born in Douglas, 1705, and died there January 22d, 1783.——This monument was erected, as a teſtimony of friendly eſteem, at the expence of the Rev. Thomas Wilſon, D. D. (ſon of the Biſhop) prebendary of Weſtminſter, and rector of St. Stephen's, Walbrook."

6th. A VERY ſtormy morning. I was defeated in two attempts to get up to the head of the bay, the wind being ſo boiſterous, and driving ſuch clouds of light ſand along the ſhore, that I was obliged to turn about, and

make a retreat from my favourite walk, in order to preſerve my eyes from the ſharp ſand, that was driven ſo furiouſly againſt them.

7th. JUST ſuch a morning as the laſt with reſpect to wind, but intervals of bright ſunſhine give it a preference over the former. The packet boat ſailed about ten, and would very ſoon make her paſſage over, if ſhe met with no diſaſter in her rigging. In going acroſs the bay, ſhe went at the rate of nine knots an hour, at the leaſt. I had the pleaſure of ſeeing moſt of the ſmart and beautiful young ladies of this place, together. Much praiſe is due to ſeveral of them, for various excellencies and endowments; but one ſhone above the reſt. To Miſs F—— B—— the palm muſt be given, in my eſtimation; and I am not ſingular in my opinion.

" *Qualis in Eurotæ ripis, aut per juga Cynthi,*
" *Exercet Diana choros, quam mille ſecutæ*
" *Hinc atque hinc glomerantur Orcades; illa pharetram*
" *Fert humero, gradienſque deas ſupereminet omnes.*
" *Latonæ tacitum pertentant gaudia pectus.*"

As on Eurota's banks, or Cynthia's heads,
A thouſand beauteous nymphs Diana leads,
While round their quiver'd queen the quires advance,
She tow'rs majeſtic, as ſhe leads the dance;
She moves in pomp ſuperior to the reſt,
And ſecret tranſports touch fair B——'s breaſt.

I NEVER

I NEVER see that lady, but the elegant compliment of *Tibullus*, to his fair one, instantly occurs to my mind:—

"*Illam quidquid agit, quoquo vestigia vertit,*
"*Componit furtim, subsequiturque decor.*"

which cannot be better illustrated, than by a charming description given by one of *our* first poets, or perhaps one of the first that any clime ever produced:

"Grace was in all her steps, heaven in her eye,
"In ev'ry gesture, dignity and love!"

I have often thought, that the great *English* poet took the hint from the Roman bard.

8th. I HAVE been told, by some gentlemen belonging to the house, that they supped last night with a father and sons; and that the first talked such indecent stuff, before the latter, as gave great offence to all. Shame on such fathers! It is well known to numbers,

"That when the sire most tipsy waxes,
"He damns all ministers and taxes."

LET him have his humour, for it will do no harm; but I never knew a father use, even in-

decorous language, before his own children, save one; and he was an American born, who had assumed the title of a *loyalist*.

I TOOK my favourite walk this morning, being tolerably warm, at a very early hour, but returned home by another route; for though I was much pleased, with the appearance of industry, the people of the sand-side being busily engaged in collecting sea weed, and burning it into kelp; yet the smoke I found so offensive to my cough, that I did not choose a second exposure to it; therefore made across the country, to the Peel-road.

9th. A FAIR morning, but uncommonly cool for the season of the year. I had for some time designed to have a scramble amongst the rocks, round Douglas-head, and judged this morning, as free from fog and any appearance of rain, a very favourable opportunity for undertaking it. I ascended towards the point, by a winding path, just above high-water mark; and pursued it as far as I could with safety; and until I reached a very small indented bay, just capable of receiving a small boat, at the time of high water. I was then obliged to scramble up the hill, for a short space, and take my views down the steepy sides, amongst a number of the most rude, mis-shapen rocks, that

can

can be conceived. Romantic as the ſcene was, the eye would have been more than ſatiated with gazing long upon ſuch barren objects, if it had not been ſometimes relieved with the refreſhing ſight of high-towering ſummits, cloathed with bright ſhining green; furniſhing the moſt pleaſing contraſt to the barren nakedneſs of their rugged neighbours. On approaching nearer, I found the pleaſing, verdurous appearance was beſtowed by the fond-claſping ivy. That ſteril promontory is inhabited by multitudes of ſea-birds, and by grey crows, jack-daws, and the *ſcreaming* ſwifts; where they all ſafely breed, and ſecurely feed too; few people venturing there, to diſturb their quietude.

After breakfaſt, took another walk to Kirk-Bradden church, where I was followed by Mr. Mc. Adam and two Liverpool gentlemen. We got the keys, in order to look at the inſide. Whilſt there, we diſcovered (and diſlodged from behind the pulpit) by much the largeſt colony of bats I ever ſaw. There could not be leſs than fifty, or ſixty, as all agreed; ſome thought, many more; that had taken up their *dozing* quarters, juſt behind the preacher. I do not know whether they are charmed with his doctrine, or not; but if I were the miniſter, I ſhould not be fond of

having ſo many ugly, black vermin, ſo very near me. Had St. Anthony (who preached ſo ſucceſsfully to the inhabitants of the ocean, as to draw ſuch multitudes around him, to hear his faſcinating eloquence, and receive his pious inſtructions) taken it in his head to direct his diſcourſes to the drouſy bats, (as Sterne ſays of Trim) "he would have made nothing at all of it."

10th. A MOST pleaſant, bright morning, followed by a very fine day; and the ſun went down, in the evening, with great ſplendor, and a tolerable degree of warmth; which made a large party form a plan of going to the CALF of MAN; an iſland ſo diſtinguiſhed in northern anecdotes, for the many diſaſtrous events that have happened amongſt its hidden rocks: rocks that would have been as renowned as the "infames ſcopulos Acroceraunii;——only an Emperor's danger is wanting, to give them dignity, and introduce them into claſſic lore.

11th. THE plan of the laſt evening was carried into execution; for the morning proving very fine, we all met together at Port-Iron, betwixt ten and eleven; and there (a)

(a) Port Iron is at the ſouth-weſt corner of the iſland, ſixteen miles from Douglas.

found

found a very good boat, ready to take us to the Calf. The wind ſeeming to blow from a favourable point, our ſails were hoiſted, and we proceeded in the moſt agreeable and expeditious manner, till we doubled the weſterly head of that charming little bay. We then found the wind ſo much againſt us, that we were under the diſagreeable neceſſity of lowering our ſails, and to have recourſe to the *laborious* work of rowing againſt wind, and a ſtrong-running tide current.

We were, therefore, near an hour in reaching the ſmall creek at the north end, in which place alone we could land ſafely and conveniently; and that was cloſe to a horrid rock, which had lately proved *fatal* to a Ruſſian veſſel, (of more than ſeven hundred tons burthen) together with all her unhappy, ill-fated crew; all periſhing in the waves, though ſo very cloſe in with the ſhore.

After we had doubled the firſt point on the main iſland, we ſaw great numbers of wild pigeons, that lodge and breed in the holes of the tremendous rocks, which ſurround and guard that weſterly peninſula of Mona: but they were ſo very wild as not to allow us to come within gun-ſhot of them. They appeared entirely to reſemble the blue dove-coat pigeons, but ſmaller.

When we had got ſafely landed, upon the Calf Iſland, we aſcended a very ſteep hill, up towards the herdſman's houſe; the only one now in the ſolitary iſle; and that inhabited by only one *old* man and his *old* wife; each having attained the age of ſeventy and upwards. The old man was gone out, upon his bird-catching buſineſs, but ſoon returned with his booty of eight ſea-parrots. It was a matter of pleaſure, as well as ſurpriſe, to find that the aged couple were perſons well known to me; he coming from Ronnod, near Dalton; and ſhe from Urſwick; (both in Low Furneſs) being the ſiſter of Mr. Wm. Flemming, farmer. There they live;—ſovereigns of a ſmall territory, and reign happily and peacefully; having no unruly ſubjects to diſturb their tranquillity. Nightly plunderers are the only people they have either to fear, or guard againſt. Their viſits being for the injurious purpoſes of deſtroying the rabbits and puffins; two main articles of traffic and profit, belonging to the iſland.

After taking a little refreſhment, from the *neceſſary* ſtores which we had brought with us, we proceeded to make a land-tour, round the iſland; along the lofty ſummits of the rocks, from whence it was

"Fearful and dizzy, to caſt one's eyes ſo low."

I found

I found myself quite miſtaken, in the opinion I had formed reſpecting the *ſterility* of the iſland; having often heard, from vague reports, that it was unable (from its produce) to ſupport any living creatures, except rabbits and puffins; but I found it abounding in ſweet paſturage; that the ſurface of the ground, in general, conſiſted of a very fine turf intermixed with ſome ſpatches of ſhort heath, or ling; and ſome (it is true) of barren rocks. I aſked the old man,—Why they had no ſheep upon the iſland, as the paſturage ſeemed admirably adapted for that valuable, profitable ſtock? He anſwered, That ſheep were ſo handy to carry off, and had been ſo frequently ſtolen, by ſea-faring plunderers, that it was thought adviſable to paſture the iſland with young ſtock of the cow-kind; of which I ſaw ſeveral grazing about; and they appeared very healthy and thriving.

On the ſouth-ſide of the iſland, there is a very noble-looking rock, called the Barrow, or Burrow, reſembling a high tower, in its firſt ſtage approaching to a venerable ruin. A ſmall aperture, ſeparating it from the main body, gives it a moſt romantic appearance. There is another near it, ſtill more curious; it is called the Eye, from there being an opening

opening through it, (viſible at a conſiderable diſtance) reſembling the eye of a needle.

It was the general opinion of the party, after our ramble, that the circumference of the iſland (making allowance for its many ſinuoſities) muſt be more than five miles; though the common notion is, only three. We returned to the head quarters, where we got a ſecond refreſhment from *our* ſtores, to which was added, by the very civil old lady, a diſh of cold parrots; with an aſſurance from her, That they were excellent food; and that they afforded a broth, or ſoop, that was uncommonly good and nouriſhing. I taſted one of the birds, and found it ſavoury, not ungrateful, to the palate; and was therefore induced to purchaſe the new-taken ones, in order to try their excellency in the article of broth, or ſoup, which was ſo highly commended by the old lady.

We then went down to the boat, and rowed round the greateſt part of the iſland, which preſented us with ſome of the moſt ſtriking, romantic ſcenes I ever had met with; and with ſo great, and ſuch a mixed multitude of birds, as no one ſpot in the univerſe can, (I believe) exhibit; for their numbers were ſo aſtoniſhingly great indeed, that I do not know how to liken them, but by ſcriptural

tural comparisons, *as the ſtars in the firmament, or the ſand upon the ſea-ſhore*, which are beyond the art of numeration. They are ſo very tame, in this breeding ſeaſon, that when fired at, and ſome of their companions (ſitting cloſe by them) are tumbled down into the water, and are there ſeen fluttering in the agonies of death, the alarm is only momentary: for, after a very ſhort flight, they return to their favourite ledges, in the rocky ſteep, and are immediately in a ſtate of reſt again.

THERE were three or four pointed rocks, at the place we landed at, (called by mariners "the COW OF THE CALF") that preſented a moſt groteſque, yet moſt beautiful appearance. The upper parts of them are formed of a kind of ſhining ſpar, as white as virgin ſnow, the lower, of a kind of baſtard marble, as black as jet; and they are ſo exactly divided, about the middle height, as to have the moſt exact reſemblance of one pillar having been fixed, by art, upon another; in order to form the *moſt perfect contraſt* in colour.

IN ſurrounding the ſolitary iſle, we paſſed betwixt a very high rock, on the land ſide, and a pyramidical one in the ſea; that moſt probably (at ſome period, and by ſome convulſive ſhock of nature) had been ſeparated from the other; their rude and rugged ſides correſponding

ing ſo exactly with each other. The paſſage betwixt them is very narrow and gloomy. The romantic ſcene reminded me of a deſcription in the Roman poet.

" *Tantum ævi longinqua valet mutare vetuſtas;*
" *Diſſiluiſſe ferunt, cum protenus utraque tellus*
" *Una foret. Venit medio vi pontus, et undis.*
" *Heſperium Siculo latus abſcidit; arvaque et urbes*
" *Littore diductas, anguſto interluit æſtu, &c. &c.*"

" That realm of old, a ruin huge! was rent,
" In length of ages, from the continent:
" With force convulſive, burſt the iſle away;
" Through the dread op'ning, broke the thund'ring
" ſea;
" At once the thund'ring ſea *Sicilia* tore,
" And lunder'd from the fair Heſperian ſhore;
" And ſtill the neighb'ring waſtes and towns divides,
" With ſcanty channels, and contracted tides."

THE rabbits, upon the iſland, (according to the old man's information) have formerly made a hundred and forty pounds per annum; puffins, and the feathers of the ſea-birds, about half that ſum: but the profits on both thoſe articles have diminiſhed, ſince the rats have got ſuch a footing in the place. The channel, that ſeparates the two iſlands, is about a mile wide, and is called, by the ſeamen, THE SOUND, or the *dangerous* Sound; for it abounds with dark, hidden

hidden rocks (the paſſage made more difficult, by a ſmall iſland called the Kitterlins) and the ſide current is ſo ſcrouderous ſtrong, that veſſels can ſeldom get through it, without being driven ſideways, or ſtern foremoſt. Of this we ſaw an inſtance, whilſt there. In ſhort, it is a very dangerous paſſage, except in very fine weather, and to perſons well acquainted with the ſhoals. But, notwithſtanding all the dreadful tales I have heard of the navigation about the iſland, I would not have been abſent on that expedition, for any moderate conſideration.

We got to Douglas a little before eleven, moſt highly delighted with the entertainment of the day. On our return home, were entertained with Sir Wadſworth Buſk's fire-works, which were that night exhibited, and made a ſplendid figure from the exalted eminence, the night proving moſt favourable for the purpoſe.

12th. A very fine warm day, though a little foggy (at intervals) during the morning, but yielding at mid-day a true ſummer warmth, at which time the Liverpool gentlemen went on board the veſſel they had hired to take them over. The mail boat came into the harbour, as did the Earl of Surrey paſſage-boat, and a ſloop from Liverpool with ſeveral paſſengers.

13th.

13th. Came in a brig with coals, from Whitehaven and the Hope cutter from Liverpool. We had our parrot soup for dinner, and better was never tasted, turtle soup excepted. For fear it might not prove agreeable to some of the guests, a very good gravy soup was sent in, at the same time; but all gave the preference to the parrot soup, thereby confirming the favourable account given of it by the old Queen of the Isle.

14th. A delightful morning; clear, serene, and comfortably warm; promising a good hay-harvest, which is just commenced, for we observed three or four scythes at work, on Thursday, as we were going upon our excursion to the Calf. That morning being so very fine and clear, we had a very full and distinct view of all the south-side of the island by Castletown to Port le Murry, and to Port Iron. A little to the south of Port le Murry is a head-land, called Spanish Head; but why so called, have not, as yet, been able to learn. The Spaniards were certainly *long* since acquainted with the island. From Balla Salley to Port Iron, is a very good country, and pretty decently cultivated; were there a little more wood to be seen, and much fewer of the miserable huts, it might be truly reckoned a very pleasant district.—

There

There was ſervice at the New Church, which was tolerably filled; and, in the congregation, ſeveral young ladies, both handſome and ſmart.

15th. ANOTHER very fine morning, which tempted me to take a very early walk, around the head. The ſerenity of the air, the vaſt and beautiful expanſe of water before me, the romantic appearance of the rocks below me; with the continual daſhing of the foaming billows againſt thoſe rocks, made it uncommonly pleaſant: inſpiring a chearful ſerenity of mind, and tempting me to extend my ramble amongſt them, beyond my *uſual* range, or time. But I did not find myſelf quite bold enough, to enter even the mouth of a gloomy cavern below, though a gentleman had aſſured me the day before, that he had ventured a conſiderable way behind its tremendous jaws, with the moſt perfect ſafety, and without any great difficulty.

ON my return, ſaw the men belonging to the ſalmon fiſhery, going out in their boat, with their nets. I heartily wiſhed them ſucceſs; for I never taſted better fiſh, of that *moſt choice* kind, than I have lately done here. They are taken in a bay, called the SALMON BAY, betwixt the port and the head. We had part of a one to day, that weighed upwards of twenty pounds; was very firm, exceedingly rich

rich, and, when dreſſed, ſeparated in ſuch curdy fleaks as would have gained it the approbation of a *Quin*, or any other more modern Epicure.

I WENT, after breakfaſt, to the ſandy bay, and was there inſenſibly led into the recollection of that noble and juſt exclamation, from the royal Pſalmiſt,—"*O! Lord, how manifold* "*are thy works! in wiſdom haſt thou made them* "*all.*" The truth of the obſervation would be fully brought home to the minds of all *attentive* obſervers; and that too by almoſt every object of creation; had they ſufficient diſcernment, to *find out* the various hidden powers, and uſes of thoſe that are (perhaps) daily offered to their inſpection. Wiſe and humble men will, therefore, be *ever ready* to acknowledge, with the ſame royal author, that "*ſuch* "*knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for* "*me; I cannot attain unto it:*" and very humbly confeſs their inability to develope the ſecret workings of nature: which do, and ever will, ſerve to puzzle and confound the moſt improved underſtandings; thereby effectually humbling the pride of ſcience.—To the point.

THERE is a ſpecies of ſea-weed, driven conſtantly at this ſeaſon of the year, upon the ſandy ſhore of this bay; and which arrives there in a moſt wonderful manner; almoſt every plant dragging after it a ſtone of *forty*, *fifty*,

fifty, or (perhaps) *ſixty* times its own weight. They are ſo ſtrongly attached to the ſtone, that when they firſt land upon the beach, and are freſh and vigorous, there is no ſeparating them from their new-adopted friends, but by acts of ſtrong violence. They are furniſhed with roots, or rather ſtoles, exactly reſembling thoſe *pliant* pieces of leather, which boys uſe as *take-ups*; and, from the ſame kind of adheſion, will not only lift up the ponderous burdens, but carry them to very conſiderable diſtances, ſo ſuſpended. From thoſe ſtoles, ſeveral ſhort, crooked roots branch out on every ſide, reſembling the hooks of the ivy, and other creeping plants; and it is by the means of them, that the very firm attachment betwixt the *animate* and *inanimate* ſubſtances ſeems to be formed. It is ſo very firm, that I have ſeveral times brought a ſtone along with me, of five or ſix pounds weight, for many hundred yards, by the adheſion alone of a plant not two ounces in weight. They are generally found ſticking to ſmooth, round ſtones, of a limeſtone nature; but the ſtrict union is commonly, if not altogether, formed upon a part of the ſtone that has *before* collected ſome very ſmall marine-ſubſtances; but ſo minute as to be only juſt perceptible by the naked eye.

THE only conjecture I can make, reſpecting the wonderful appearance, is, That thoſe plants, being torn up from their *native* beds, (within the great deeps of the ocean) by furious winds and waves, are carried along by the tide current, towards the ſhore, till they arrive in ſhallow water; where, being allowed a little reſt, they *inſtinctively* form thoſe new connections; embracing and clinging to the ſtones, as *anchors* of ſafety; ſuch as will prevent their being entirely driven out of their *own natural* element, into one that muſt ſoon prove fatal to their exiſtence. But this is only vague conjecture. It is mine to wonder and adore, not to ſcrutinize into, the hidden workings of PROVIDENCE; unleſs it be with the greateſt humility and diffidence, and for the *ſole* purpoſe of refining and exalting that wonder and adoration; ſo juſtly due from every created being, to the Firſt GREAT CAUSE of *all* things.

16th. THOUGH there was a ſhower laſt night, and a good deal of fog upon the hills, yet this morning was very ſerene and pleaſant; inviting thoſe that riſe early, to extenſive ramblings; the country, at this prime ſeaſon of the year, (when nature is arrayed in all her choiceſt beauties) being moſt inviting to lovers of walking exerciſe. In my way up to the

Great

Great How, paſſed by hedge-rows that were as white as ſheets, with the bloom of the *hawthorn*; I will not call it the *May*, this year, as I was never once regaled with the ſweet and grateful odour of thoſe flowers; ſo grateful as to make that *humble* buſh ſuch a general favourite with the poets, and all admirers of nature's ſimple beauties. The aſcent up to that eminence was attended with ſome labour, both of wind and limb; but my toil was amply requited, by pleaſing and extenſive proſpects over a country, *to the ſouthward*, gently deſcending down to the ſea-ſhore: and, on my return, by affording me ſome ſweet peeps into the mountainous parts of the iſland, then finely gilded by the morning rays of the ſun: diſcovering a feeble cultivation, pretty high up, on ſome of the hill ſides. The many flocks of ſheep, that feed upon thoſe mountains, (though ſo diminutive in ſize) form no inconſiderable portion, in the general property, as well as the general bleſſings of the iſle; and happily give the poor ſome intereſt in both.

17th. The wind, blowing from a North East point, made the air ſo harſh, that I gave up all thoughts of an *early* ſtroll. The mail boat got ſo near, ſoon after two, as to land the mail and her paſſengers, before three.—The

paſſengers were Capt. Mc. Adam, of Maryport, and a Mr. Allonby, from near the ſame place. Soon afterwards, a thunder ſtorm came on; but it was of ſhort duration; for only one flaſh of lightning and one clap of thunder were noticed here.—It was more heavy towards Laxey. It was ſucceeded by a conſiderable fall of rain, which laſted ſeveral hours. The ſtorm brought the wind about from the North Eaſt, (where it had been invariably fixed for three or four days) to the South Weſt. After the rain was over, a very heavy ſea fog came over us.

18th. A MILD, pleaſant morning, though the wind is returned to its old quarters; but it blows very temperately. The rain having given a freſh verdure to the ground, and a more beautiful tint to the foliage of the trees, about the Nunnery,—for *there* trees abound,—made a morning walk, by that ſweet ſpot, to Pulroſe, delightfully pleaſant, and very gratifying to moſt of my ſenſes: for the ſweetneſs of the morn called forth muſic from every buſh, and gave, to the hawthorn, *additional* fragrance, as well as beauty.

19th. A MILD morning, with a variable wind, which brought on a wet day; and that defeated

defeated an intended excurſion up into the mountains, for the purpoſes of ſeeing a wild, neglected part of the iſland, and getting a diſh of trouts, out of the ſmall becks, that trickle down from thoſe lofty heights. This was to be done through the *angling* ſkill of my hoſt, (deemed a capital fiſher) and of my friend Mr. Mc. Adam, as a ſecond. That ſcheme being fruſtrated, we agitated another; that of going to Peel, to take a thorough inſpection of its ancient venerable caſtle; reckoned one of the moſt ſafe places of refuge, that nature ever formed, before the horrid arts of war were reduced to a regular ſyſtem of butchering the human ſpecies, by the *infernal* uſe of gun-powder.

20th. The morning being very fine, the plan of yeſterday was put in execution. We paſſed through a very ſteril country, from Kirk Bradden to St. John's, where we ſaw and admired the famous mount on which the ancient chiefs, or lords, of the iſle were wont to exerciſe their acts of ſovereignty. The laſt that *duly* ſupported the dignity of thoſe ancient forms, was James Earl of Derby, (the laſt of that noble houſe, that held the ſovereignty of Man) who, in his chair of ſtate, upon the ſummit of the mount, received the fealty of the inhabitants; and, like a venerable druid, from

thence promulged ſalutary laws and regulations, for the well-ordering of the iſland; by *thoſe* appointed under his authority to ſuperintend the ſubordinate branches of government.

The mount is circular, and was formerly ſurrounded by a wall, about a hundred yards in circumference. The approach, to the top, is up a flight of graſs ſteps, directly facing the ancient chapel of St. John's; to which there was a ſpacious road of approach, from the foot of the mount. There are three circular graſs ſeats, or benches, below the ſummit; and thoſe are regularly advanced, three feet above each other. I ſtrode the loweſt, or largeſt, and eſtimated the circumference at eighty yards, and the width of it four *feet*. There is a proportionable diminution, in the circumference of the two higher; the ſame in the width of them. The width, or diameter, of the higheſt (for the chair of ſtate) full ſix feet. Part of the old wall is ſtill remaining, and ſome fragments of two of the gates of entrance are ſtill to be ſeen.

The once venerable chapel, is only now venerable from its ruins. The walls, indeed, are ſtill ſtanding; and the conſecrated ground is *ſtill* covered; but it is by a very ſhattered roof. The whole place is left ſo open, and ſo

expoſed

expoſed to daily outrages, (for want of doors and windows) that it might be (according to the language of the great prophet) *a joy of wild aſſes*, were there any aſſes at all in the iſland; I mean of the long-eared kind. Its only uſe now is becoming a ſheltering place for the ſheep of the neighbourhood; a place of refuge for thoſe timid animals, when winds and ſtorms prevail, or ſummer heats make ſhade neceſſary.—In ſuch manner is the ſanctuary profaned.

From the veneration I feel, for the character of the noble Earl I have mentioned; from the reſpect I bear towards the family, now enjoying the title, and ſupporting all the dignities (ſave one) of that noble and very ancient houſe; I could not behold ſuch neglect and devaſtation, without very ſenſible regret, and ſome emotions towards indignation.

In going forward from St. John's, towards Peel, we obſerved the ſoil, of that diſtrict, to be of a more warm and generous nature; and cultivation improving, all the way, to the latter place; which is a very convenient port of paſſage to Ireland; with which country it carries on ſome traffic, as well as with the weſtern parts of Scotland: both in the *fair* and *illicit* courſe of trade.

The town is but ſmall, but it is neat and

clean, and alſo tolerably well built. The ſoil about it is very dry, and the air of the place, I believe, very ſalubrious; for, in ſauntering about in the church yard, in order to beguile the tedious time of waiting for a very bad dinner, I caſt my eyes upon one grave-ſtone, that denoted the attainment of its inhabitant, to the very extraordinary age of ninety-ſeven. Many counted up more than eighty; and thoſe exceeding ſixty, made up more than the medium number of all thoſe that had any records (at all) upon them: for there were very great numbers, without the leaſt inſcriptive information; a rude, uncouth ſtone, alone, ſerving to protect humble duſt and aſhes from the intruding ſpade of an unfeeling grave digger. He, as our great poet ſpeaks, "whom cuſtom has "ſo ſteeled to his trade, as to make it a pro-"perty of eaſineſs in him. That ſkull, Hora-"tio, had once a tongue in it, and could ſing. "How the knave jowls it to the ground! as if "it was Cain's jaw-bone, that did the firſt "murder."

When we arrived at the Liverpool coffee-houſe, and made the neceſſary enquiries about our dinner, we found we were confined to *Hobſon's choice*; chickens or nothing. But even thoſe were running about in the yard, and were to be chaced into tenderneſs; ſo

as

as to make them eatable; and only them by *powerful* feeders. As that operation would take up a conſiderable time, and, of courſe, make the dinner-hour a late one, we determined to take an immediate ſtroll to the old, venerable caſtle, and ſpend our time amongſt thoſe noble ruins, till the appointed hour arrived.

I HAD ſome vague information, before I left Douglas, that I might expect to meet with ſome Roman remains; but not giving the leaſt heed to ſuch improbable fancies, I was not diſappointed. Knowing how frequently the Danes had made irruptions into the iſland, and often remained poſſeſſors of the northern diſtricts, for conſiderable periods of time, I expected to find ſome Daniſh ones; but being only moderately verſed in northern antiquities, I ſhould both have thought, and ſpoke, very doubtingly upon the ſubject, had not a Daniſh ſepultural monument evidently proclaimed to my imagination their having had, *once* at leaſt, poſſeſſion of that ſmall rocky iſland. From the ſize and form of the berg, or barrow, I am led to think it was raiſed to perpetuate the memory of ſome *mighty* chief, or warlike commander, who had left his bones there; perhaps been ſlain in battle.

IT is (I believe) a matter of very great uncertainty,

certainty, who were the *original conſtructors* of thoſe very large ranges of buildings, ſtill in being (though many of them in a mouldering ſtate) which cover ſo very conſiderable a ſpace of ground: but it is very plain, That, in after-times, they were converted to religious uſes; and a conventual ſociety, of ſome order or other, had been founded, within the ſpacious incloſure;—a conſiderable part of a cathedral church, the noble nave and a chancel, ſtill remaining pretty entire and ſound, ſave the roof. There are alſo ſome veſtiges of cloiſtered cells, and of a chapel for veſpers.

We ſpent a conſiderable time there, in an amuſing and pleaſant manner. If I had ſtaid there, during the time of dinner, it would hardly have been time miſ-ſpent; for the chickens (notwithſtanding the chacing) were not eatable by me; therefore, if it had not been for the appearance of a large plumb-pudding, I muſt have left the *third* city of the iſle, with an empty ſtomach.

21ſt. A TOLERABLY fine morning, but rain in the afternoon. A detachment, from the ſeventh regiment of foot, came in a large brig from Whitehaven, to relieve a detachment from the 40th, upon duty in the iſland.

22d.

22d. The whole day very fine, and pleaſant.

23d. A tolerably fine morning; but the day a little inclined to be ſhowery, in the afternoon. The detachment of the 7th marched out for Caſtletown; and the relieved party, of the 40th, marched in here; in order to embark, in the Whitehaven brig that brought the former over here.

24th. The Cruiſer cutter ſailed out. The Queen cutter came into harbour. A good deal of ſwell in the bay; wind at North Eaſt. Several brigs and ſloops croſſed the bay, making for Ireland with a rapid courſe.

25th. Went to Caſtletown, with the ſame chearful, agreeable party, as to Peel. In our way there, ſtopped at Balla Salley, in order to view the remains of the old abbey, ſtill exiſting there. They are, even now, ſo conſiderable as to give a very ſtriking idea of the former rank and importance of that religious eſtabliſhment, and the great extent of valuable land, formerly alienated from public uſe, to maintain a ſet of lazy beings in pampered indulgence and conventual luxury. There is an extenſive range of orchard ground, finely ſheltered from every

every hurtful wind, every injurious blaſt, originally planted, no doubt, by Monkiſh hands; which, when ſo employed, were well employed. For, though I have always been induced to conſider thoſe ſequeſtered beings, as the drones of the *great* hive; and the property aſſigned, for their maintenance, an injurious alienation from public good, and *public* property; yet, I will confeſs, that peace and tranquillity reigned within their walls, as well as "plenteouſneſs within their palaces;"—and, with reſpect to Balla Salley, now a place of wrangling and contention, and the daily ſcene of diſcord and diſcontent, (poiſoning all the ſweets of ſociety) it was, when in their poſſeſſion, a place of religious retirement, free from outward ſtrife, and unjuſt litigations amongſt friends and neighbours.

The tower of the abbey church is ſtill pretty entire, and affords the moſt inconteſtible proof, that the ancient art of building, within this iſland, was very far ſuperior to the modern; which is truly contemptible. And the ſtone maſons of theſe days, if they merit the name of artiſts, the moſt unſkilful of that trade that ever pretended to ſet ſtones in mortar.

We reaped a *farther* advantage, by going round that way, beſides gratifying our curioſity, as it took us by a new road to Caſtletown, which

which led us through a ſmall diſtrict, much better cultivated than any we had before ſeen in that part of the iſland.

WHILST the gentlemen were amuſing themſelves with a game at billiards, I ſtole a walk to Derby-haven, diſtant about a mile and a half. In my way there, paſſed cloſe by Mount-Strange; (c) in former days the ſcene of ſociable feſtivity; when it *could boaſt a Stanley* for its hoſpitable owner; but now in ſuch doleful ruins, as to be a fit habitation, *only* for bats and the drowſy birds of day, where

" The moping owl does to the moon complain
" Of ſuch as nightly wand'ring, near her *cell*,
" Diſturb her ancient, ſolitary reign."

THE remains of the building (once ſo reſpectble) are upon a ſmall mount, a little elevated by art, at the head of the beautiful bay of Caſtletown. From that delectable ſituation, the capital of MONA makes a ſplendid appearance; the caſtle rearing its head aloft, out of the centre of the town. The form of the bay is creſcentical; the horns of the creſcent being naturally pointed and formed by ſmall rocks,

(c) A kind of ſummer houſe; one large room, about twelve yards long, and eight in width; lofty, with large handſome windows, and a handſome door-caſe.

jutting

jutting out a *little* into the water. From the ſandy head of that bay, to the neareſt part of the haven, is not much more than half a mile; being only ſeparated from each other by a beautiful peninſula of *that ſmall* diameter. Derby-haven, being a very ſafe and commodious landing place, is generally choſen for that purpoſe, by perſons coming from Ireland to Caſtletown, though at the diſtance of a mile and a half from the place of deſtination.

DERBY-HAVEN is another of the ſafe and fine harbours, belonging to the iſland; having very deep water, cloſe to a very bold ſhore. There is an old round tower (on Soder Iſland) at the ſouth point of the bay, intended formerly, no doubt, as a work of defence to the haven; near to it a ſmall chapel, in as doleful ruins as Mount-Strange.

26th. RAIN, exceſſive cold rain, the whole day; the wind blowing from the North Eaſt; and ſo harſhly that fires were called for, by the *general* voice of our party. Good ones were lighted up, and as cloſely ſurrounded as if it had been the very *depth* of winter.

27th. FAIR the whole day, but very cold; the wind blowing full north.

28th.

28th. A PRETTY bright morning, with the wind exactly in the ſame quarter; which gave a general expectation that we were going to have ſome ſettled fair weather, though very cold for the ſeaſon. In going up to the New Church, the ſun ſhone out ſo bright as to make it comfortable; rather pleaſant; but before the morning-ſervice was finiſhed, a pelting ſhower, or rather ſtorm of hail, made the windows rattle on the north ſide: and that occaſioned ſuch a chilline ſs in the air, as, perhaps, was never remembered *near the end* of June; making a good coal-fire a moſt agreeable companion.—Dined at Mr. Heywood's.

29th. THIS day may be properly coupled with the laſt; the wind blowing forcibly, and from the ſame frigid point. All *prudent* people will certainly caſt off their light, ſummer cloathing, and have recourſe, *once more*, to their winter garments. Mr. Heywood told me yeſterday, that his thermometer (Farenheit's) got down (after the ſtorm) to the common March ſtandard.—Tempting gleams of ſunſhine cannot withdraw me from my coal-fire. Col. Holwell did the party (number three) the honour to dine with them at their comfortable quarters.

30th. THE wind having gained a point or two

two towards the West, has brought about a very considerable change in the temperature of the air; for the morning was tolerably warm, and the clearness of the mountains from their usual covering, promised a fair and pleasant day; and so it continued, till about three; but no longer: a smart shower came hastily on, which made great bustle in the hay-fields, and put a finish to that business, for the rest of the day. About four it cleared up wonderfully, which gave me an opportunity of enjoying a pleasant walk up to the Head, and along the rocky shore.

RAIN began to fall again about seven, and a very wet evening closed the *variable* day, and was succeeded by a very wet night; that is, as long as I had any knowledge of it; till sweet sleep happily sealed up my eyes so effectually as to make me utterly regardless of the vicissitude, both of weather and fortune;—for

> "Sleep, that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care;
> "The birth of each day's life, sore labour's bath;
> "Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course:
> "Chief nourisher in life's feast,"

was easily wooed to my pillow; to which strong exercise had given me an early attachment.

I SAW a very fine sea-carp brought in by some fishermen. It was the first I had seen.

July 11.

July 1st. Set out about nine (with my two companions) for Kirk Michael and Ramſey; in order to have a view of the north ſide of the iſland; and the day proved very favourable for our purpoſe. After we left the Peel-road, we very ſoon came to a brawling brook, which we croſſed, and then had it for a noiſy companion near two miles, up a very narrow dale, bordered on each ſide with a very ſteep hill: but they were not *ſuch barren* hills as might be expected, in *ſuch* a mountainous country; but covered with verdure and ſweet graſs, furniſhing excellent paſturage for ſheep. We had then a long and ſteep hill to climb, through a very narrow dell, which two of us climbed upon foot, to eaſe the horſes, as they were to have a pretty hard day of it. Our labour was well repaid when we reached the ſummit, by an *inſtantaneous* view of the northern channel, and a pleaſant hanging country, down to the ſhore: and were entertained with looking down upon that fine expanſe of water, (with ſeveral moving objects upon it) the whole way to Kirk Michael; where we arrived before twelve, at a houſe that *announced good* entertainment, "for man and horſe," in large *capital* characters, written along the *whole* front of the houſe. I believe our horſes fared very well, and we met with good bread, and a bottle of tolerably good wine.

WHILST a very humble dinner was preparing for us, we amuſed ourſelves in, and about, the church, where I was led to expect a noble treat of Daniſh relics; but found nothing to evidence their *former* poſſeſſion of that *particular* place, except a venerable croſs, before the gate into the church-yard, and ſome Daniſh characters upon one grave-ſtone: but, at the eaſt end of the church, I met with the tombs of two moſt worthy and venerable prelates; that truly primitive biſhop, Doctor WILSON, and his modeſt, worthy ſucceſſor, Doctor MARK HILDESLEY. On the former I found this ſhort denotation:—

" Sleeping in Jeſus,
" Here lyeth the body of Thomas Wilſon, D.D.
" Lord Biſhop of this Iſle;
" Who died March 7th, 1755, aged ninety-
" three,
" And in the fifty-eighth of his conſecration."

AT the foot of the tomb, we were informed, by his ſon Doctor Wilſon, that he erected it to the memory of his father, and that he was reſtrained, by the expreſs commands of his father, from ſaying any thing reſpecting his character; then adds, " *Let this Iſland ſpeak the reſt.*" It is certain the good old man wanted no ſepultural monument,

monument, *to record* his many amiable virtues, or perpetuate the memory of them, within the iſland; for, as long as he breathed the vital air, he really and truly lived in the hearts of thoſe that were ſo happy as to be under his paſtoral care; and ever ſince he became numbered with the dead, in the reſpectful remembrance of *all*, to whom his character has *ever* been made known.

THERE are many perſons living in that neighbourhood, that cannot hear mention made of his name without bedewing the ground with tears of gratitude, for many acts of bounty; for a ſeaſonable relief, beſtowed in times of ſickneſs and diſtreſs; for being a father to the fatherleſs, and a comfort to the mournful widow. And let it be recorded, (for moſt truly it may be ſo recorded) that it was not to the corporal wants of his flock alone, that the venerable father was ſo very liberal; for many have to thank him, for a good and pious education beſtowed, that muſt have ſtood in need of ſuch an invaluable bleſſing, if it had not been for his bounteous diſpoſition. I met with one poor wretch, uncommonly miſ-ſhapen, and a miſerable object of deformity, even from his mother's womb, whom the kind-hearted Biſhop had taken under his protection, and given ſuch an education to, as to enable him to be an inſtructor to others, in the

common, uſeful parts, of education. The mention of his patron's name dilated his heart ſo, with thoſe forcible viſitings of nature, that bar all utterance a while; till the relief of tears unlooſe the tongue, and give eaſe to the *fulneſs* of the heart;—then he lamented that the tomb of his generous benefactor ſhould be *ſo neglected*, that the inſcription ſhould now be almoſt illegible. I told him I would make enquiry, from whence the neglect aroſe.

On the neighbouring tomb-ſtone was firſt recorded the death and age of Mrs. Hildeſley; then thoſe of the worthy biſhop, ſo long known, and ſo highly reſpected at Hitchin in Hertfordſhire, for his humility of mind, his condeſcending behaviour, his great candour, and unwearied attention, to every branch of paſtoral care and duty.—"*Nunquam uſitatus majores appetere res;*"—it was with the utmoſt difficulty that his beſt friends could prevail upon him to relinquiſh his *beloved* flock, and accept the epiſcopal dignity; though it was conferred upon him, in a manner moſt flattering, as well as moſt honourable to himſelf, by (almoſt) the *unanimous* recommendations of the Engliſh biſhops; and that noble teſtimony given, at the requeſt of the Duke of Athol, who was deſirous that a *proper* ſucceſſor to Biſhop Wilſon ſhould be pointed

pointed out to his choice, by that *venerable* body.

ELEVATION to the mitre did not leſſen his aſſiduity in performing all the neceſſary duties of a good pariſh prieſt. He died in the ſeventy-fourth year of his age, and the ſeventeenth of his conſecration.

THERE is a ſquare ſtone fixed in the outſide wall of the chancel, near to the place where ſo much venerable duſt is entombed, bearing the following boaſting inſcription;—

" THIS chancel was rebuilt at the ſole ex-
" pence of the Rev. Doctor THOMAS WILSON,
" a native of this pariſh, and ſon of the Right
" Rev. Thomas Wilſon, late biſhop of this
" dioceſe, A. D. 1776."

IF the Reverend prebend of Weſtminſter had adopted his own maxim, of letting the iſland ſpeak his praiſe, (if any were due for ſuch a paltry inſtance of his generoſity) he would have given more pleaſing proofs of his inheriting the modeſt virtues of his noble father, along with his very comfortable fortune.

THAT church is the pooreſt edifice of the kind, that I have yet ſeen in this iſland; I mean of thoſe that are *ſtill* in uſe for religious worſhip; for there are ſeveral in abſolute

ruins; and yet there are many that have been recently repaired and enlarged in a *handſome* manner; and fitted up too, in a very decent, proper manner.

Bishop Mason was interred very near to his predeceſſors: but there is not even a rude ſtone, to point out the identical ſpot where his bones were laid to reſt. From report, it may be ſaid of that prelate, that as he was meek and humble-minded, when living, ſo, in his death, he did not wiſh to be diſtinguiſhed from his *humble* flock; either by name, or title.

In the church-yard, there is a record of a faithful couple, permitted by Providence to enjoy an unuſual period of longevity together: the huſband attaining the age of eighty ſeven; the wife, of eighty three. There are many ſtones denoting above eighty; many ſilent as to age, though exact to the day, month, and year of death. Great numbers ſleep there, under mouldering turf only.—There

"Each in his narrow cell, for ever laid,
"The rude fore-fathers of the hamlet ſleep."

The country from thence, by Biſhop's-Court, and ſo on to Ramſey, is by far the moſt pleaſant part of the iſland, in my eſtimation; the fences, in general, being planted with quick-

quick-wood, and almoſt every houſe (of any conſequence) ſheltered by a ſmall plantation of trees, which (as the country is very level, down to very near the ſea coaſt) gives it the appearance of a woody country. From the road (after we had paſſed Biſhop's Court) I could diſcover evident appearances of Bergs, Barrows, or Tumuli, pretty near to the north ſhore; which made me form a reſolution, in my mind, of viſiting that lofty range of waſte country, before I quitted the iſland.

Of the town of Ramſey, I ſhall be ſilent; but the bay is very capital, having the advantage of deep water almoſt every where, and good anchoring ground in moſt places; and the ſpan of that very capacious bay cannot be leſs than four miles.

We returned the next morning, by the ſame way that we came; and were favoured with a very fine day; though the dawn of it was very unpromiſing, from a true Scotch-like miſt, which was diſtilled from the mountains above, ſo plenteouſly, at one time, as to reach the ſkin of an Engliſhman.

2d. A pleasant morning, the wind blowing very moderately from the Weſt.

3d. One of the moſt ſummer-like days we

have had ſince I came into the iſland; the wind blowing ſoftly from the S. E.

4th. A FINE, warm morning, with the wind at the ſame point, and quite fair, till two; but then rain came on, at firſt moderate, but before evening, exceſſive heavy. So great was the fall, before ten o'clock, that the current of the river was very much increaſed, and became very turbid.

5th. WAS uſhered in by a very cloſe, ſultry morning, with a full ſouth wind; but rain came on about five in the afternoon, and the evening turned out one of the *uſual* ſort, uncomfortably wet.

THE accounts given me, when I firſt came here, "That great numbers of herrings were "bred in the different bays and channels about "the iſland," were received with great caution, as I had been long taught to believe (by naturaliſts, and other writers upon the ſubject) that all of that wonderful ſpecies were bred in very *high* northern latitudes;—but I have two or three times had an opportunity of ſeeing, and obſerving, conſiderable ſhoals of young herrings, that, from their diminutive ſize, could never have journeyed from ſhores very diſtant from *this* ſmall iſland; but muſt have bred

bred in neighbouring ſeas, in parts not very far diſtant from their preſent places of reſort; where, in this early ſeaſon, they are ſeen in great abundance.

THERE is ſuch tolerable plenty of the largeſt ſized herrings, *now* brought to market, as to be ſold three for two-pence. Thoſe, intereſted, or engaged, in the grand buſineſs of the iſland, form hopes of a very beneficial ſea-harveſt, from the preſent early ſucceſs of the ſmall boats. They are the only ones that, as yet, have gone out in ſearch of them: but the greateſt exertions are making to have an extraordinary number of the large ones, ready to go out when the ſeaſon ſeriouſly commences.

6th. THE great annual fair, at St. John's, is always held on this day; therefore novelty induced me to viſit it; and there I found a prodigious concourſe of people, from every part of the iſland; but ſuch a collection of cows and horſes, ſure, never diſgraced any fair before,—except that at Kirk Santon, before noticed. There ſeemed to be very little trafficking, in thoſe articles; therefore I ſuppoſe moſt of them went back with thoſe that brought them.

WHEN I ſpeak of the cattle of the iſland, in a degrading, contemptuous manner, I do not mean the remark to extend to the entire,

or

or whole ſtock upon it; for there are numbers of milch-cows, about all the market towns, and pretty generally through the northern parts, which would not diſgrace any country. There are alſo many decent-looking horſes; but thoſe are chiefly imported from Ireland; ſo are many of their cows.

Mr. Seacome (in his conciſe account of this iſland) ſays, that a good many cattle are ſent into England, particularly into the county of Lancaſter. And that is the caſe ſtill. I have ſeen ſeveral drovers here, both from that county and Cheſhire, who have bought up conſiderable quantities. Knowlſley beef has been long celebrated for its excellency; particularly in the time of James Earl of Derby; the laſt noble owner of *that name*, in this iſland; —who bought all his bullocks, intended for feeding, in this iſland; working them for two years in huſbandry work, and then turning them to feed, and grow fat, upon the rich paſturage of his noble park. I have heard ſeveral gentlemen, old when I was young, ſpeak of the beef that was conſtantly ſerved up at his Lordſhip's very hoſpitable board, in the higheſt language of approbation.

About twelve o'clock, all the booths and tents, in the fair, were overflowing with cuſtomers; moſt buſily employed in eating and drinking,

drinking, and enjoying themſelves in *noiſy* mirth.—So much for the excurſion to St. John's fair, which was rendered pleaſant, by the fineneſs of the day, and ſeeing ſuch multitudes with happy faces.

7th. A TOLERABLY fine, warm morning, though a little gloomy; the wind full Eaſt.—About ten, it veered a little towards the South; and, ſoon afterwards, a heavy, ſteady rain came on.—Great plenty of herrings in the market;—general price, two a penny. The people of the iſland are in great ſpirits, expecting a good fiſhery. After the petition in the Litany, *for obtaining the fruits of the earth*, all the Manks Clergy, very properly, add—"*together with the bleſſings of the ſea.*"

TERRIBLE havock is now made amongſt the children, in every part of the iſland, by the ſmall-pox; for wherever you go, you ſee ſhocking proofs of its malignity, where the children *have ſurvived* that loathſome diſorder. The paſſing bell, in this town, is continually announcing, by its doleful, melancholy knell, the fall of another infantine victim to the preſent rage of that ſhocking diſeaſe. The very ſenſible practice of inoculation was introduced into the iſland ſome little time ago; but ſome unfavourable circumſtances attending ſome of the

the firſt attempts, an unhappy prejudice took place againſt a practice ſo very rational, and ſo generally attended with unerring ſucceſs, as to make it patroniſed by the wiſe and learned, in moſt or all the moſt *enlightened* countries in Europe: but a prejudice, ſo originating, will remain, I fear, a long time unſubdued; eſpecially in the minds of the common people, naturally ſuperſtitious; as they will form their opinion, with reſpect to a novel practice, upon the good or bad ſucceſs of the firſt trials, without reaſoning upon, or paying the leaſt attention to, any aſſigned reaſons for the then failure in ſucceſs.

Mr. Sutton (one of the boldeſt and moſt ſucceſsful adventurers in the happy preſerving ſcience of health and beauty) could never be induced to give the infection, to any one, if there was the ſlighteſt probability of its having been received in the natural way.—I wiſh the ſame neceſſary caution were obſerved every where.

8th. A very fine ſummer morning, ſucceeded by a true ſummer's day; without any lowerings, or any ſuſpicious ſymptoms of a change; ſo that people ventured, very early in the day, to open their hay, which had been moſt thoroughly ſoaked with the continued heavy

heavy rain of yesterday.—I heard salmon cried this morning, at threepence per pound. The daily arrival of herrings, in the market, will soon reduce that moderate price.—I never tasted finer salmon in any country, and it is not a quarter of a mile from the water it is caught in, to the water it is boiled in. Such luxury, and upon such easy terms, must be a strong temptation, to the lovers of good eating, to visit this island, remote as it is.—Two fine gurnets have been brought for my inspection.—They are very beautiful in their colour, exactly resembling the red mullet; but very different in their formation: the head of the gurnet being very large, and *strangely* shaped. The people of the isle put a witty imposition upon strangers, by telling them, "They must "not taste the head; for all the meat upon it "is of a poisonous quality."—In truth, there is no meat upon it; no substance whatever; it consisting entirely of a strong bone, with a shining skin over it, as thin and transparent as the finest paper.

Many herring boats, that were laid upon the slip *long* after I came here, are already launched, and look charmingly upon the water. The boat-builders are uncommonly clever and adroit, in their business; constructing entirely by the eye, never making the least use of the line,

line, or rule, unleſs in laying down the keel. They build a great many for ſale; their boats being in high repute, for the fiſhing buſineſs, every where; their reputation ariſing from their being ſo handy for that buſineſs; ſailing ſo faſt, and living like ducks upon the water, even in a rough ſea. Thoſe belonging this iſland will ſoon be upon their buſineſs, in good earneſt; as many *large* ſhoals of herrings have been ſeen roving about the iſland. Two gentlemen (who landed here on Monday evening, from Liverpool) ſaw ſeveral large ones, when they came near to this coaſt. The tracks they were purſuing were very diſcernible, by the ripple upon the ſurface of the water, (the day being perfectly calm) the dark ſhade of the water where they were moving along, and the great number of ſea-gulls, that were ſcreaming and hovering over, and invariably purſuing their paths.

The ſea-gull (at this ſeaſon) is under the protection of the laws of this land, there being a high penalty upon a perſon killing one; and very properly ſo, as they are ſuch ſure guides for the fiſhermen, in conducting them to their booty: to thoſe noble treaſures of the ſea, providentially diſpoſed to roam ſo many thouſand miles every year, for the uſeful employment, and chief article of ſuſtenance, for many millions

lions of people, in countries far diſtant from each other.—I have taſted the gurnet, which reſembles the mackerel very much, in flavour; but is a much firmer fiſh.

9th. A DELIGHTFUL ſummer morning, with the wind S. W. by W.—In a walk up the vale, and over the river, I found the people very buſy in their old-mown hay and graſs, and heard the ſcythes at work, in many fields. Two fine days, together, raiſe the drooping ſpirits of the farmers, inſpiring them with hopes that ſummer weather is *at laſt* approaching this iſland.

I NOTED great numbers of very young herrings, about the mouth of the harbour, this afternoon. There were ſome few amongſt them, about half grown. Some fiſhermen had taken ſome of the *ſmalleſt*, and were baiting their lines with them, to fiſh for codlings. From what I have noticed of the very great numbers of ſmall herrings, or fry, that are ſo early in the ſummer ſeen about theſe ſhores, I am ſtrongly induced to believe that ſome of the preceding emigrants had proceeded ſo far into ſouthern climes, or been retarded in their return (by accidental cauſes) ſo very long, that they were under the neceſſity of depoſiting their ſpawn in ſome proper places, for ſafety,

long

long before they could reach their native ſhores; and, from the ſame appearances, I am farther induced to think, that the whole of the herring-fry remain the firſt year about thoſe places, where they firſt ſtart into being from their embryo-ſtate; —*preſuming* to believe, That the Divine Providence (which does nothing in vain, or to uſeleſs purpoſes; but, on the contrary, for the moſt wiſe and gracious ones) will only give, or impart, that *wonderful, impulſive inſtinct of quitting their native ſhores, in ſearch of far diſtant climes*, to *ſuch only*, of that wandering tribe, as are *fully* able (from health and ſtrength) to accompliſh ſuch an *aſtoniſhing* emigration, in point of diſtance.

10th. A SMALL ſhower viſited us, juſt before I retired to reſt, laſt night; which was followed by heavy falls of rain, during the night; making every place uncomfortably wet and miry this morning; defeating the pleaſing, ſanguine hopes of yeſterday, that we were upon the eve of enjoying refulgent ſummer, with all the comforts, pleaſures, and advantages generally attendant upon that glorious ſeaſon of the year. The day has not been unpleaſant, upon the whole; but ſmall ſhowers, at intervals, rendered it unfit for hay-making purpoſes, and ſtopped the ardor for cutting down, though

though the graſs, in moſt places, is taking damage, by ſtanding ſo long.

The mail-boat, from Whitehaven, came in at two this morning, with ſeveral paſſengers on board.

11th. After a dripping night, a very cold, wet morning, making it more like January weather, than July. The conſtant fogs, and very frequent falls of rain, properties that ſeem to be entailed, by nature, upon this iſland, very ill accord with my ſpaſmodic cough, and breaſt-complaint; which were ſo little known as hardly to be remembered, whilſt I breathed the ſalubrious air of Boulogne.—They were both very troubleſome, all the laſt night, making ſleep almoſt a ſtranger to my eye-lids. During my waking, tedious hours of pain and reſtleſsneſs, that noble ſoliloquy of Henry the Fourth, as given by our iminitable bard, occurred to me ſo frequently that I could, at laſt, recollect the whole paſſage, long as it is.—

How many thouſands of my pooreſt ſubjects
Are at this hour aſleep!—O, gentle Sleep!
Nature's ſoft nurſe!—how have I 'frighted thee,
That thou no more wilt weigh my eye-lids down,
And ſteep my ſenſes in forgetfulneſs?

Why rather, Sleep, lay'ſt thou in ſmoky cribs,—
Upon uneaſy pallets ſtretching thee,—
And huſh'd with buzzing night-flies to thy ſlumber,—
Than in the perfum'd chambers of the Great,—
Under the canopies of Coſtly State,—
And lull'd with ſounds of ſweeteſt melody?
O, thou dull God!—why lay'ſt thou with the vile
In loathſome beds, and leav'ſt the kingly couch,—
A watch-caſe,—for a common larum-bell?
Wilt thou, upon the high and giddy maſt,
Seal up the ſhip-boy's eyes, and rock his brains
In cradle of the rude imperious ſurge,—
And in the viſitation of the winds,
Who take the ruffian-billows by the top,
Curling their monſtrous heads,—and hanging them,
With deaf'ning clamours, in the ſlipp'ry ſhrouds,
That,—with the hurly,—death itſelf awakes?
Canſt thou, O, partial Sleep! give thy repoſe
To the wet ſea-boy, in an hour ſo rude;—
And, in the calmeſt, and the ſtilleſt night,
With all appliances and means to boot,
Deny it to a King?—Then,—happy, lowly clown:—
Uneaſy lies the head that wears a crown!

12th. A WET morning, after a very wet night, and the day continued to be of the ſame uncomfortable

uncomfortable ſtamp, from the opening to the cloſe of it; not one interval, to allow a ſhort breathing of freſh air, or exerciſe, out of the houſe: not a ſingle gleam of brightneſs, to give hopes of better weather in reverſion.—The Langriſh exciſe-cutter, Sir James Briſto, commander, came into the harbour, by the early morning-tide; likewiſe a large veſſel, from Liverpool.

13th. I was awaked, for the firſt time, betwixt two and three o'clock, by the violent daſhing of rain againſt my windows. The raiſing of my head, from my pillow, awoke my cough, (that had been tolerably quiet till that time) and that teaſed me inceſſantly, for more than an hour. At laſt, by the repeated uſe of *my* charm, I ſunk into the ſilken arms of ſleep again; and remained, in tranquil repoſe, till very near five, when I was again diſturbed, by a more violent daſhing, upon my windows. Soon after ſix, I forſook my bed, finding all attempts to woo ſweet ſleep again to my pillow, were vain and fruitleſs.

It may be truly ſaid of this morning, that it is "clad in a wintry cloud:"—and the drops of rain keep deſcending upon the already glutted ſoil, without intermiſſion: but they

deſcend with quietude, the wind being huſhed into ſtillneſs.

After travelling through the Low Countries, French Flanders, and reſiding near two years in Piccardie, ſo far from ſeeing a rookery, I was never able to obſerve a ſingle rook, or crow, of the white bill kind; therefore I concluded that thoſe very ſociable birds, which (in England) affect ſuch cloſe amity with man, always chuſing their airy habitations near ſome large manſion, that contains a number of people, were perfect ſtrangers in thoſe parts of the continent. I was going to draw the ſame concluſion, reſpecting this iſland, when (on making ſome enquiries) I was informed, That there had been a ſmall one formerly, near the Nunnery; but, upon a ſuppoſition that they did conſiderable miſchief in the garden, they were driven thence, and obliged to look out for a freſh place, to rooſt and breed in: but where they could find a ſuitable one, for that purpoſe, I am at a loſs to gueſs: a wood, a lofty grove, or even a holt of trees, being an object very rare to be met with, in this rocky iſle.

The notion of thoſe ſagacious birds abandoning their ancient, favourite reſidence, when the houſe they had attached themſelves to becomes deſerted, either by the death or remo-

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val of the late owner, I was wont to conſider as fabulous, or a mere vulgar error, hatched in times of ignorance and idle ſuperſtition: but, having known two ſuch pregnant inſtances as thoſe reſpecting the two capital manſion-houſes, Middleton and Caſtleton, where I could not be miſtaken as to the facts, (being in my own neighbourhood) from an infidel, I am become a ſtaunch believer.—Whether, from being ſuch very buſy, buſtling, creatures themſelves, (eſpecially during the breeding ſeaſon) they are pleaſed with ſeeing much ſtirring and buſineſs going forward, around them, (which I take to be the caſe) or from ſome inſtinctive impreſſion, they fear being moleſted, when they have loſt their old protectors, is a point not eaſily ſettled. VIRGIL is *rather* againſt allowing any inſtinctive impreſſions to direct them.

" *Haud equidem credo, quia ſit divinitùs illis*
" *Ingenium, aut rerum fato prudentia major.*"

" Not that to them a genius Heav'n has lent,
" Or piercing foreſight of each dark event."

THAT the ancients, in *general*, (and the great and amiable poet in *particular*) had very ſtrong prejudice in favour of the preſcience of ſome particular kinds of birds, is beyond all doubt.

For inſtance, the *cornix* or *corvus*, as a predict. or of weather; and the croaking *raven*, as the foreteller of unlucky events.

" *Tum cornix plená pluviam vocat improba voce,*
" *Et ſola in ſiccá ſecum ſpatiatur arená.*"
" Loudly the rains, the boding rook demands,
" And ſolitary ſtalks, acroſs the barren ſands."
" *Sæpe malum hoc nobis, ſi mens non læva fuiſſet,*
" *De cælo tactas memini prædicere quercus:*
" *Sæpe ſiniſtra cava prædixit ab ilice* CORNIX."
" Theſe ills, prophetic ſigns have oft foretold;
" Oft, from yon hollow tree, th' hoarſe raven's croak,
" And heav'ns quick light'ning on my blaſted oak.
" O! I was blind, theſe warnings not to ſee."

THE following line, which infers a belief that a knowledge of future events belonged to birds in general,

" *Et volucrum linguas, et præpetis omina pennæ,*"

is particularly applied, by Livy, to the cornix, or crow-kind. Superſtitions of this ſort, which ſtill prevail very much amongſt the common people in England, and ſome of higher rank too, are finely ridiculed by Mr. Addiſon, in the Spectator, and Mr. Gay in his fable,—*The farmer's wife going to market.*

THE alliteration, in the two firſt quoted lines of the Roman poet, have been highly extolled by ſome of his commentators, as a very great beauty; and greatly condemned by others,

others, as an idle play upon words, and a gingle of ſounds, unbecoming ſo great, and ſo judicious a poet. If it be a beauty, I cannot think it a firſt-rate beauty; but the choice, or adoption, of words that convey the qualities of the objects treated on, in the moſt expreſſive manner, to the imagination of the reader, is a beauty in writing, of the *very firſt* rate: and, according to my humble opinion, there never was a word more judiciouſly choſen, or more happily adapted, than the verb "*ſpatiatur*;" for it is not only *ſtrongly* expreſſive of the waddling, hobbling gate of the bird, when making acroſs the furrowed ground, (which almoſt every one muſt have noticed, at one time, or other) but alſo of the lax ſtate of her plumage, which cauſes her not only apparently, but really, to ſhadow *more* ſpace with her body, than perhaps any other bird of the ſame ſize and weight.

THERE are three lines, in that moſt charming elegy of Mr. Gray's, that are ſtrongly impreſſed with beauties of the ſame kind: and are alſo as truly echoes to the ſenſe, as any of Mr. Pope's very celebrated ones, ſo frequently adduced by other writers, as the *firſt* patterns of that *particular* excellency, in poeſy.

"When Ajax ſtrives ſome rock's vaſt weight to throw,
"The line *too* labours, and the words move ſlow;

"Not ſo when ſwift Camilla ſcours the plain,
"Flies o'er th' unbending corn, and ſkims along the main."

THOSE I allude to, of Mr. Gray's, are the three following ones;—

"Now all the air a *ſolemn ſtillneſs* holds,
"*Save where the beetle wings her* droning *flight*,
"*And* drowſy tinklings LULL *the* diſtant folds."

THE repetition of thoſe lines I often uſe, as a charm to lull me to repoſe, when the dull god of ſleep, as Shakeſpeare calls him, ſeems utterly regardleſs of all my earneſt ſolicitations, by ſo long withholding from me his healing powers: and that charm will often bring on a drowſy heavineſs, then a ſweet ſlumber, at laſt ending in a quiet, refreſhing ſleep; that ſovereign, temporary remedy for all the ailings both of body and mind.

BUT though the Gracculus, or true Engliſh Rook, is ſo rare a bird, in this detached corner of the Britiſh territories: yet there is another ſpecies, the *corvus cincricius*, or pied-crow, that appears in great plenty, along all theſe ſhores. There is a very ſtrong colony of thoſe miſchievous birds, amongſt the ſteep and rugged rocks, at Douglas head; where they live and breed in the greateſt ſecurity. I frequently obſerve them, deſcending from thence

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in great numbers, as ſoon as the tide begins to recede, in order to prey upon ſmall crabs, and other marine delicacies, left there by the ſea, on its retreat. This carniverous kind (in the ſouth-eaſt parts of England) is beſt known by the name of the Royſton-crow; becauſe ſeen in great abundance upon all the dry heaths about that healthy, little town.

Some writers call them the Winter-crow; becauſe ſeen in the greateſt numbers (at that ſeaſon of the year) on dunghills, and by the ſides of great roads. That mottled ſpecies breeds in vaſt abundance, upon all the high beaches near Boulogne, in France; where they were purſued with fatal vengeance, during the late ſevere winter-ſeaſon, as an article of food; being allowed, by the pious biſhop of the place, to be eaten upon all faſting days, (which, God knows! were then very frequent, to multitudes of poor wretches, in that town and neighbourhood) under the article of *fiſh!* —Numbers of poor boys uſed to attend every gentleman going down with his gun, upon the ſands; would run, and ſcramble for any that were knocked down, ſaying they were very good eating, boiled with pomme-de-terre; that is, potatoes. *My* gun has been ſometimes inſtrumental, in cauſing the wonderful tranſmutation; but I could never be induced to taſte the

the *feathery* FISH! There was the ſame ſanction for eating cormorants, gulls, and ſea-pies; thoſe are allowed, as a dainty diſh, at all times, to his flock, by the kind old father,—who avers them to be of the ſame nature as the fiſhes of the ſea; therefore a good *faſting* diſh.—Happy, eaſy Religion! ſo accommodating, ſo uſeful, ſo ready to adapt itſelf to times and circumſtances!

THE day got up, and was very fine before noon; the wind having ſhifted ſeveral points to the northward, which change took out the three packet-boats. The Liverpool robbed us of Col. Holwell and his family; the Dublin, of my two friends, and (of late) moſt conſtant companions, Mr. Mc. Adam and Mr. Allenby, on a viſit to a gentleman's family, in the ſouth of Ireland.

14th. So fine a morning, as to tempt me from my pillow at five o'clock, in order to take a pleaſant, healthy walk, up to the Head.—Having heard it mentioned, by ſeveral perſons, That, when plenty of herrings were about the ſhores of the iſland, a kind of oily ſubſtance would be often ſeen floating towards the land, upon the firſt flow of the tide, and might be often found lodged in the ſmall creeks, I had ſearched for this appearance two or three times; but

but could never meet with it, till this morning, when, peeping into a little creek, near the salmon bay, I discovered a pretty considerable quantity floating upon the surface of the water;—a true oily substance: and, upon applying a little of it towards my nose, instantly perceived it to be strongly tinctured with the true hogo of the herring. I was therefore perfectly satisfied from whence the oil and fishy fume were derived.

15th. A FAIR, but very cool morning, for the season. Two boats brought in some herrings early this morning; but not such plenty as to lower the price of yesterday. But, about ten, a considerable quantity arrived from Port Iron, and then the price dropped to one half.—That beautiful little bay, it is generally allowed, furnishes the first samples, in point of excellency, of all the choice kinds of fish, frequenting these shores: and it is worthy remark, That the northern wanderers always pay the first visit to that bay, after their arrival in these seas; and that those, taken there, exceed all others in flavour and plumpness; but are frequently too rich, to bear the common mode of curing.

THOUGH I have a kind of detestation for that ugly gluttonous tribe of birds, the cormorant, especially since I learned, from Milton, that

that the Devil transformed himſelf into one,—

" Thence up he flew; and, on the tree of life,
" The middle tree, and higheſt there that grew,
" Sat like a *Cormorant;*

Yet I was much amuſed with one, this morning. I ſaw the black raſcal dive into the water, near the ſhore, where he remained a conſiderable time. When he made his appearance again, he brought up with him a pretty large eel, with which he ſeemed much perplexed, and encumbered; for it was ſome time before he could adjuſt it, ſo as to move at all; and, when he had managed ſo as to get it twiſted about his ugly neck, it was with great difficulty he could raiſe his body from the water. However, at laſt, he fluttered away with his ſpoil, (along the ſurface of the water) to the rocky point; where it would ſoon become a *firſt* breakfaſt for his voracious ſtomach. Were I a *bon* Catholic, I ſhould not thank the reverend old gentleman for the enjoyment of ſuch a latitude in choice, on a meager day. Should he, or even his Holineſs of Rome, enjoin the eating of ſuch rank birds, I ſhould think a ſevere penance was enjoined, inſtead of an indulgence granted,—and immediately turn heretic.

The doctrine, above alluded to, proved very fatal at Boulogne, during the late ſevere winter,

ter, to all birds that (unhappily for themſelves) had been transformed (by ſuch *magic* powers) from their *original* nature:—for a beautiful gull, though clad in dove-like innocence, could not come ſkimming above the ſtream, as far up as the pier-head, but a tube was levelled at him, —and down he dropped *fiſh!*—Voyagers, to various parts of the world, ſpeak very confidently of *flying-fiſh;* but, from my own poor opinion upon the ſubject, I muſt think that what they denominate *flying* is no more than an energetic effort, prompted by inſtinct, to evade a natural foe, purſuing to devour; which makes the purſued quit, for a moment, their natural and proper element. And, from the ſame inſtinctive impulſes, they may go, bouncing on for a conſiderable time, and to a conſiderable diſtance: which illiterate, or ſuperficial, obſervers may conſtrue into the act of *flying*: —but the action of flying is a kind of uniform, regular, progreſſive motion;—an action that can only be properly attributed to birds, and thoſe kinds of inſects that have been furniſhed, by nature, with wings, or other appendants proper for that purpoſe. The judicious Roman Poet, and Critic, candidly allows—

——— " *Pictoribus atque Poetis*
" *Quidlibet audendi ſemper fuit æqua poteſtas.*
" *Scimus, et hanc veniam petimúſque damúſque viciſſim:*

" *Sed*

" *Sed non ut placidis coeant immitia; non ut*
" *Serpentes avibus geminentur, tigribus agni.*"

" Painters, and Poets, our indulgence claim;
" Their daring equal, and their art the ſame.
" I own th' indulgence; ſuch I give and take,
" *But not through nature's ſacred rules to break.*
" Monſtrous to mix the cruel and the kind,
" Serpents with birds, and lambs with tygers join'd."

So we will allow great travellers to infringe a little, upon the ſtrict bounds of ſober truth; but not to give properties to animals, that are contrary to their nature, or endue them with ſupernatural powers, ſuch as cannot be exerted in common, or to any uſeful purpoſe, within that element which Providence has judged proper to aſſign them, for their habitation, during their whole ſtate of exiſtence; and therefore muſt contend, that what they call *flying* is only an extraordinary, momentary exertion, for *ſelf-preſervation*, to eſcape from a deadly, purſuing foe. Conſidered in that light, it is perfectly conſiſtent with various other workings of dame-nature, for the like ſalutary purpoſe. Our great Poet, properly called the *Poet* of *Nature*, makes the unhappy Lear very finely obſerve, to his faithful attendant, when urging him to take ſhelter from the tremendous ſtorm,—

—" Thou'd'ſt

——" Thou'd'ſt ſhun a bear;
" But if thy flight lay toward the raging ſea,
" Thou'd'ſt meet the bear i'th' mouth."

It is wonderful with what an elaſtic ſpring it has pleaſed the Divine Providence to furniſh ſome of the finny tribes; that of the ſalmon in particular. The females, when impelled by inſtinctive motions to depoſit their ſpawn, in the ſhallows of thoſe rivers beſt adapted to *that* purpoſe; in their progreſs up the ſtreams, muſt, and frequently do, find their paſſage barred by dams, wears, or ſteep water-falls. Whenever they come near to any obſtacles of that ſort, which retard their progreſs, they riſe up to the ſurface of the water, and from thence, by the power of that elaſtic ſpring, will throw themſelves up to an amazing height; and there remain ſure (by the help of their navel fin) till they have recovered their ſtrength and agility, ſufficiently to enable them to make another bound; and ſo on till they can overtop that impediment to their progreſs. I have very often obſerved trouts do the ſame; and for the very ſame purpoſe. The female trout will go up ſmall brooks or rills of water, as high as ſhe can *poſſibly* aſcend, in order to depoſit her ſpawn where the winter floods are not likely to diſturb or annoy it. Thoſe petty ſtreams (about May)

are

are darkened with the young fry, going down into the larger ſtreams, in quantities innumerable; but ſo diminutive in ſize, that it is not eaſy for the eye to aſcertain to what ſpecies they belong. Vaſt numbers of them become an eaſy prey to various kinds of other fiſh; and many naturaliſts are of opinion, That the male fiſh, of their own ſpecies, come in for a large ſhare of the plunder. It is well known that pikes, thoſe tyrants of the watery plains, as Mr. Pope very properly calls them, prey moſt voraciouſly on their own tribe, even in an advanced ſtate towards maturity. Are there not animals, ſtyling themſelves rational beings, that do the ſame?

"Though in life's buſy way,
"Man of man makes his prey,
"Still let ours be the prey of the field;"

—ſays a good old hunting ſong.—The inſtances noticed of the ſalmon and the trout, bounding ſo high, might give them (poſſibly) as good a title to be called *flying-fiſh* as moſt of thoſe dignified with the name, by voyage writers: but, to ſuppoſe ſuch a power was given them, would be to ſuppoſe that nature was ſometimes inconſiſtent with herſelf: contradicting, by ſome partial diſtinctions, her own general principles and rules. But I muſt accord with Mr. Pope, in that well-grounded opinion,

—— "That

——————" That the firſt Great Cauſe
" Acts not by partial, but by general laws."

being (from attentive obſervations on the general workings of nature) induced to believe that Divine Providence has thought proper to ordain, to *every* living creature, its own diſtinct, proper element, in which alone it can (with eaſe and freedom) perform its animal functions.

THERE are, it is true, ſome amphibious creatures, to whom are ordained the uſe of two elements, in either of which they can reſpire; but the number of thoſe is comparatively very inconſiderable. The biſhop's few tribes of fiſh are the only ones, I think, that can remain long in *our* element with eaſe and comfort to themſelves; can ſoar in it with freedom, and in which, alas! they often pay the forfeit of their little lives, to the cruel fowler's hand. I cannot doubt the biſhop's believing the actual tranſmutation of the bodies of thoſe birds, from a *fleſhy* ſubſtance to a *fiſhy* one; for I am ſure he is too good a man to *gull* his *own* flock.

16th. A MOST delectable morning, looking, and feeling, like ſummer.—All buſtle in the harbour.—I thought nothing could have cured Manks indolence; but I now perceive

the herring hogo will do it. It operates as powerfully upon their noſes, as cheeſe does upon a Welchman's; of which there are wonderous relations, in the chronicles of the old women of that principality.

17th. After two entire fair days, a moſt ſummer-like morning, that (I hope) will make Mankſmen ſtrip to their work; and that will be a novel ſight, in the neighbourhood of Douglas; for as fine a day as yeſterday was, with a due ſummer warmth, all the mowers I could ſee (ſave one) were at that hard work, with all their cloaths on.

18th. The fineneſs of laſt evening tempted me to take a pretty long ramble into the country, and to extend it to a later hour than I uſually preſcribe to myſelf. I never was in any country where blackbirds and throſtles were ſeen, or heard, in ſuch numbers, as in this neighbourhood. It verifies, in part, a verſe in a favourite old ſong of mine;—

"The blackbird and thruſh,
"In every buſh,
"And the charming nightingale."

But the laſt, the ſweeteſt warbler of the grove, I have never been able to hear ſince my arrival, though

though I have often ſtrayed to hear her even-ing ſong, amongſt all the woody retreats I could diſcover. But the expectation brought to my recollection that charming addreſs of Milton's, to that ſweet bird.

" Sweet bird, that ſhunn'ſt the noiſe of folly,
" Moſt muſical, moſt melancholy!
" Thee, chantreſs! oft the woods among
" I woo to hear thy even-ſong;
" And, miſſing thee, I walk unſeen
" On the dry, ſmooth-ſhaven green."

THAT great and ſublime poet had certainly a ſtrong partiality for that melodious bird; for he has addreſſed his firſt ſonnet to her, in a ſtyle that has great originality in the Engliſh language.

" O, nightingale! that on yon blooming ſpray, &c."

The woodlark's wild notes are likewiſe unknown to me here; but the linnet's ſweet notes, I hear in many places. There are very great numbers about the Nunnery; and it is no wonder that ſuch elegant birds ſhould ſelect the ſweeteſt ſpot in the iſland, for their favourite haunt.

A VAST quantity of huge ray-fiſh, and a number of large conger-eels, were brought to

the market place, and were preſently bought up; the former kind for winter uſe; the latter for the uſe of they day. They were all taken in Laxey-bay; a noted place for them, it ſeems; for an old fiſherman, that was ſtanding by, indulged me with a bouncing lie upon the occaſion, by telling me that he was once preſent, at the taking of a ray-fiſh, in that bay, that was upwards of three hundred weight!—confirming the improbable ſtory by a fiſherman's oath, or imprecation.

Two Liverpool gentlemen are come to this place, as invalids, in order to bathe in the pure water of this bay; the moſt clear and limpid I ever ſaw. In that, my opinion, I am not ſingular; having heard many ſtrangers to the iſland notice the *peculiar* purity, or clearneſs, of the ſea-water; and that without any ſingle circumſtance leading to the obſervation.

19th. Another ſummer-like morning happily tempted me from my pillow, ſoon after five, to meet the freſhneſs of the morning breeze, brought to the ſandy ſhore by the approaching tide. I was very much amuſed with ſeeing the ſalmon riſe ſo freely for the fly, and frequently throwing themſelves far above the ſurface of the water. If it had been a proper fiſhing-day, a great take might have been expected;

expected: but Manksmen, though they will not refrain from frequenting dram-shops and ale-houses, on the sabbath, or day of rest, yet (to do them justice) most pertinaciously abstain from every kind, and degree, of manual labour. There were many got into the dram-shop (kept by the Irish-lady opposite to the old chapel) when I forsook my lodging this morning, soon after five; swearing, cursing, quarrelling, and using every kind of wicked and opprobrious language, with impunity; very much to the discredit of the police of Douglas town, where, it is too plain, that the civil power has but very little influence over the morals and manners of the common people;—and, from the very relaxed state of magisterial discipline, I fear that the uncommon rudeness, bordering upon brutality, which is so generally noticed and complained of by all strangers, may be chiefly attributed to it; because a very different behaviour is very observable amongst the lower ranks, both in Castletown and Peel.

20th. *(At sea)* Went on board the Fly packet-boat, about nine last night, and left the harbour and bay in a very little time, with a fine, fresh breeze at S. W. by W. which very soon cleared us of the island, and carried us, with decent speed, and very pleasantly too,

towards Whitehaven. The next morning's light treated us with a very diſtinct view of the Cumberland coaſt, and fed us with hopes of getting into harbour by the next tide; but, from that time, the breeze kept dying away gradually; and, at laſt, ſunk into a dead calm; ſo that we were neceſſitated to wait for the evening tide, to carry us into port. However, the day being very fine, and the ſerenity of the air affording us ſo many diſtinct views of the country, terminated by a lofty mountainous range, and being at the ſame time ſurrounded with ſo many floating objects, upon the placid, watery element, the time ſtole away very agreeably. Amongſt other veſſels, waiting for the tide to carry them in, was a large Greenland-man, juſt returning from the fiſhery. About five we got into the harbour, and ſoon afterwards were ſafely landed; though not without ſome little difficulty, from the great number of large veſſels we had to make our way through.

21ſt. A VERY fine, hot morning. After breakfaſt, ſpent two or three hours about the pier-heads and docks, where I found the Greenland ſhip we had paſſed by, alſo another (that had been upon the ſame buſineſs) ſafely moored in the harbour. They are the only two belonging the port, that go upon that ſta-

tion.

tion. Though they returned ſo ſoon, they brought with them very decent cargoes; eſpecially the ſmaller, called the Thompſon.

From the north-pier head, I counted ſixteen large brigs under way, from the different coal-ports of Cumberland, ſteering for Ireland.

Being ſo fine a day, I was determined to make myſelf pretty well acquainted with the ſcite and extent of Whitehaven, having heard ſo much of its rapid riſe: ſo rapid, that ſcarce any town in England had ſwelled ſo faſt in buildings; there being ſeveral perſons, now living, that can well remember its humble, infantine ſtate; when one church, and a very few houſes (poorly built) conſtituted the whole of this now flouriſhing ſea-port.

The day continued very fine, till after five, when a ſudden and violent ſtorm of thunder and rain came on, which put an entire ſtop to all hay-operations; for though the ſtorm was but of very ſhort continuance, yet the rain was ſo very heavy as to make the channels, in the ſtreets, run down like rivulets.

22d. A dreadfully wet and ſtormy morning, defeating thoſe pleaſing hopes that aroſe, from the uninterrupted continuance of fine weather for four or five days, that ſummer and ſummer weather were at laſt arrived;

making glad our hearts, and diſpelling thoſe gloomy thoughts, reſpecting the fate of the enſuing harveſt, which a long train of very bad weather had given riſe to in various parts; thereby occaſioning an alarming advance, in all the corn-markets.

I LEFT Whitehaven about nine, in order to proceed to Bootle. It proved a very unpleaſant journey, the day being ſo very tempeſtuous, and ſo very cold too, that it made ſhelter coveted, and eagerly ſought after by every creature expoſed to the bitter blaſts of a day that would have been conſidered as a very bad one, in the ſtormy month of January.

MY feelings were much hurt, by ſeeing ſo many glorious crops of wheat, barley, and oats, drooping and bowing their heavy heads nearly to the ground, under the heavy drops of rain that were inceſſantly coming down, during my whole paſſage, from the great town, to the ſmall, humble village.

THE ford, at Ravenglaſs, is the worſt I ever encountered any where, for the length of it. No perſon ſhould dare to paſs there, before the tide is entirely out, or the current reduced to a very ſhallow one. It continued to be very ſtormy, both the evening and the greateſt part of the night. Towards the morning, the wind abated conſiderably: but rain ſtill continued

to

to fall till nine. The wind North-East, the whole time.

23d. The wind ſtill North-East, but very moderate, and the temperature of the air grown far more mild. Soon after the rain had ceaſed to fall, I ſet out on my morning's walk; directing my ſteps northward: and keeping cloſe to the courſe of a brawling brook, become more noiſy by the heavy falls of yeſterday's rains, till I came to a rude ſtone bridge, over which I paſſed, and ſoon afterwards perceiving a beautiful green and dry path, on my left hand, I purſued it acroſs ſome large green paſtures, where conſiderable herds of cattle were grazing, and great numbers of ſheep, nibbling ſweet graſs, under a general covering of ſhort broom and brackens;—certain indications that the ſoil was of a dry nature, and therefore, in ſome meaſure, indebted to a wet ſummer for its preſent agreeable verdure, and ſuch plenty of food. Following the pleaſant path, for more than half a mile, it conducted me to a fine, dry eminence, or knowl, from whence I had a full view of the ſea, a faint one of the Iſle of Mann, and a very diſtinct one of St. Bee's Head.—The ſame path, purſued, at length brought me to the deſerted manſion-houſe, called Seton Hall; now almoſt in ruins; which, a few years

years ago, was the property of Mr. S. and Mr. W. in right of their ladies, being the coheireſſes of the late Mr. Pennington, of that place; and, by thoſe gentlemen, ſold to Lord. Muncaſter, who is the preſent reſpectable owner.

At the bottom of thoſe very extenſive paſtures, there is a very large ſwamp or fen, which, if properly drained, (and it is very capable of ſuch a valuable improvement) might be changed into a fine range of fruitful meadows; yielding noble crops of good hay, and affording alſo moſt valuable, winter paſturage; being well ſheltered from all ſtorms, by being ſo effectually guarded on three ſides, by riſing grounds, and open only to the tepid ſouth. An improvement of that nature would give his Lordſhip's penetration a more decided ſuperiority over that of the two gentlemen; *(d)* who, rather than make a diviſion of the property, politely choſe to compliment his Lordſhip with a purchaſe, the vaſt advantage of which is ſtrikingly obvious, to every one in the neighbourgood.

The day continuing very fine, I took a ſecond ſtroll along the Millam road, in hopes of meeting thoſe for whoſe ſakes *alone* I was induced to traverſe ſo conſiderable a ſpace, both

(d) One of the gentlemen, I know, was once very deſirous of making an *equitable* diviſion.

by

by land and water. I was diſappointed in my hopes of meeting them; but amuſed myſelf, on my return, with another inſpection of theſe Druidical remains, which I had before noticed. About one o'clock, my wiſhes were gratified, by the arrival of my good wife, and my two youngeſt ſons. The reſt of the day was ſpent in a manner moſt ſatisfactory to all.

24th. A VERY pleaſant morning, with a tolerable degree of ſummer-warmth, to make it more acceptable on very many accounts.—After breakfaſt, took a walk, with my ſons, down the Ravenglaſs road, to the guide-pillar on the beach; and ſo along the bold ſhore, to the rabbit warren. The young men were quite delighted with ſeeing ſuch a noble expanſe of water, a ſtrong tide boldly approaching the ſhore; the waves chafing themſelves amongſt innumerable pebbles and ſhells; and then retiring with noiſy, indignant foam, towards the GREAT DEEP! making room for others to follow the ſame appointed courſe, in endleſs ſucceſſion, till the *general* reflux took place.

WHEN ſuch a ſight is a *novel* one, it muſt make the moſt auguſt, as well as pleaſing, impreſſions upon the mind of the beholder; and, if the lamp of reaſon be thoroughly lighted up there,

there, fill it with awful wonder, and the moſt reſpectful veneration for that *Great Being*, who *alone* can ſay to the proud waves, "*Hitherto ſhall you go, and no farther.*"

On our return towards our comfortable quarters, at the Sun, near the church-gate, (kept by two as civil and obliging people as any in "aw conny Cumberland") we paſſed by a miſerable cottage, or rather a miſerable thatched hut, but which (with all its apparent wretchedneſs) had afforded contented ſhelter, during the amazing period of *one hundred and fourteen years*, to the wonderful Thomas Dicconson: for *where* he firſt received his breath, *there* he reſigned it into the hands of his moſt bountiful Creator; whoſe goodneſs had not only bleſſed him with ſuch an uncommon length of days, but with ſtill greater indulgencies,—good health, and the perfect enjoyment of his mental faculties, to the laſt day the ſun ever ſhone upon *his* ſtraw-clad cot. Who has ſucceeded him, in his poor, pitiful habitation, I do not know; but the preſent inhabitants, from their ragged, tattered appearance, I fear, muſt be the children of penury.

About the ſame diſtance from Bootle church, is another rare inſtance of longevity, Mr. John Troutman, who paſſed the centennial of his nativity, about five years ago; and

and is ſtill enjoying a tolerable ſtate of health. To the humble virtues of that honeſt old man, the Divine Providence ſeems to have been *peculiarly* beneficent and propitious; by confering upon him, not only the bleſſing of ſuch a happy extended old age, but another,—that very rare one,—the certain proſpect of beholding his patrimony deſcend with credit to ſeveral ſucceeding generations, in regular gradation: for he attended the laſt very ſpirited conteſt at Lancaſter, ſurrounded by a very numerous progeny,—ſons, and *grandſons*, who were *become fathers*; whom his aged eyes beheld enjoying, *all* of them, comfortable plenty, and *ſome* even a degree of opulence. And, if I may not ſet down the following particular, amongſt one of the *happy* circumſtances of his uncommon life, yet I certainly ſhall, as one of the fortunate and honourable ones,—*That he was the leader, in age, of thoſe twenty ſix hoary heads* that enabled the *independent* freemen of that *reſpectable* borough, to preſerve *inviolate* their freedom and birth-rights; to triumph *nobly* over the wild, extravagant attempts of wealthy ambition, *ſtriving* to inthral, and to *diſgrace* their brother freemen, who held the creed of *paſſive obedience*. —It is a pity that a ſpecies of ambition, having ſuch a natural tendency to ſubjugate the wills of mankind, and to *uproot* the noble principle of

of virtuous independency, ſhould ever ſprout from a Lowther-ſtock.

THOSE two neighbours, and remarkable perſonages, were (ſome years ſince) called together, to the aſſizes at Carliſle, *as witneſſes in the ſame cauſe*; a cauſe of great conſequence. Mr. Troutman was firſt called up to give his evidence; and the learned judge, on hearing his great age, and obſerving the appearance of ſo much health and ſtrength about him, was induced to aſk him a few queſtions, reſpecting his *common* mode of living: to which the old man replied, That he had *ever* lived under the rules of temperance; and had conſtantly accuſtomed himſelf to riſe very early, and alſo to uſe ſtrong labour, or exerciſe. The relation drew, from his Lordſhip, ſome very proper obſervations on the happy conſequences of temperance, and a regular courſe of life; and his Lordſhip was pleaſed to add, "that as length of days was certainly a bleſſing which he muſt ever wiſh to *all* his friends, he ſtrongly recommended to thoſe few, who were *then* around him, that they would ſtrictly attend to the excellent plan of Mr. Troutman's, for attaining that deſirable bleſſing."—Upon Thomas Dickonſon's examination, it appeared that he was ſeveral years older than Troutman; and having the appearance of full health and ſtrength alſo,

the

the judge enquired of him, likewiſe, as to his method and rule of living; which was bluntly anſwered in the following honeſt manner.—— "That he was born and bred in an ale-houſe; and had kept that houſe himſelf, for upwards of eighty years; in which time, he could not remember, if he was at home, that he had ever gone to bed *perfectly* ſober; for, to do juſtice to his own liquor, he always took care to get a little cheery with it; finding that it did him no harm, and was a ſure way to promote cuſtom: that he had ever been a ſtirring, laborious man, and an early riſer." The judge not deſcanting upon Dicconſon's maxims of attaining old age, as he had done upon the former, one of the council got up,—one that thought his Lordſhip might have mingled a little reproof (along with his excellent advice) to thoſe that loved *the other bottle;* and thanked his Lordſhip, on behalf of himſelf and thoſe other friends, to whom his Lordſhip had been ſo kind and liberal, in beſtowing good wiſhes; and obſerved, That, as his Lordſhip's life was of far greater conſequence to the public than that of any perſon's in a private ſtation; therefore, anxious for the *long* continuance of his Lordſhip's, they could not help recommending ſome attention to the plan of life laid down by the *laſt* witneſs, for the attainment of that deſirable bleſſing,

length

length of days;—as it certainly had the ſanction of *much longer, ſucceſsful practice*, to recommend it, than Troutman's." The judge bowed thanks for the compliment, and candidly ſmiled at the fairneſs and propriety of the reply.

We accepted a friendly invitation from the honeſt rector, and his good wife, to eat our commons with them, at two. Their excellent fare was made more palatable, and acceptable, by the hearty welcome and very chearful good humour with which it was ſerved up, and accompanied.

25th. *(Or St. James's day)* A PRODIGIOUS wet morning, with the wind at S. E. ſo that all hopes of ſtirring in the hay (or indeed of ſtirring out of the houſe) were entirely done away;—and as it began, ſo it ended.

26th. A TOLERABLY fine morning.—Attended church, both morning and afternoon. The evening being exceedingly pleaſant, accepted an invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Gibſon, of Barfield, to drink our tea there. It is ſituated upon a dry knowl, and from the back-front commands a very fine ſea-view, and at times a pretty diſtinct one, of the Iſle of Man. There is a very deep tarn, or ſmall lake, in the front of it, well ſtocked, I have heard, with perch

perch and tench. There is certainly a want of wood: but that is a general want, and ever will be, in the diſtricts bordering on that open, weſtern coaſt.

27th. A warm, ſummer-like morning, promiſing a good hay day; and ſo it was, to the bold and confident: but the wind blowing from the S. E. by S. (eſteemed a very ſuſpicious quarter under Blackcomb) made many timorous, and deterred them from going on with that proper ſpirit which would have made very conſiderable clearings, in the hay-grounds.

28th. The fineſt morning in the ſeaſon, that ſhould have been, we hoped, a ſummer-one, called me from my pillow, ſoon after five; and as the dawn of the day was ſo very pleaſant, and ſo tempting to exerciſe, I was determined to make another viſit to Seton Hall; being perfectly ſatisfied, from recollection, that it was once the ſolitary, peaceful reſidence of a religious ſociety, a nunnery; though I could not diſcover the leaſt appearance of any ancient ruins, denoting ſuch a uſe, at my firſt viſit: but, on this my ſecond, and more diligent ſearch, have been more lucky; by diſcovering, a very ſmall diſtance from the ancient manſion, the eaſt end wall of a chancel, belonging to

ſome church or chapel, now in ruins. [illegible] parts (for the lights of a window) are ſtill [illegible] rably perfect, and the third as viſible as [illegible] others; though in a moſt ſhattered ſtate; [illegible] by the *form* and *ſtyle* of conſtruction, [illegible] plainly beſpeaking their original uſe, and [illegible] doubted affinity to a place of worſhip; though the valuable remnant is nodding to its fall.

NEAR to that remnant, I found two [illegible] yew-trees, venerable from their great age and priſtine uſe. They now exhibit ſome [illegible] verdure, for rather better than a yard above the roots: but their ſhattered, ſapleſs trunks are quite bare, with ſtag-headed tops. Theſe were, doubtleſs, planted there to impreſs, by their ſomnorous appearance, a greater degree of religious awe and gloom upon the minds and ſpirits of thoſe female devotees, who had vowed to forſake all the chearful ways of the world, and to ſpend all their lives in a ſtate of abſolute ſolitude, and frigid abſtinence too, from all the innocent and rational pleaſures of life. Yet thoſe poor deluded creatures (the unhappy objects of ſuperſtitious enthuſiaſm) were evidently formed, and deſigned too, by their benefcent Creator, for general ſociety; and to be uſeful in their generation: for that Great Being is ſo good as to will rational happineſs, to all his

his creatures, and certainly loves a *chearful* worſhipper, as well as a chearful giver.

About ten, the chaiſe from Ulverſtone arrived, and ſoon afterwards I prepared to ſet forward in it, for Whitehaven. A triſtful family-parting enſued, and then I ſtept into the carriage, attended by my youngeſt ſon, who was very deſirous of accompanying me to Whitehaven, and returning in the chaiſe to Bootle, that night.

The day was delightful, and the country quite alive; buſy haymakers, in almoſt every field. I was much pleaſed, and cheered, by ſeeing the different crops of grain, raiſing up their drooping heads, after their late ſevere depreſſure from the heavy rains.

At ſix o'clock, parted very reluctantly with my ſweet lad; but go he muſt; and it was high time for the chaiſe to return.

29th. I left my bed at ſix o'clock, with an intention to have had a ſtroll as far as St. Bee's Head, and back again, before breakfaſt; but was diſappointed by a dripping morning; which I was ſorry for: for though the fall of rain was but trifling, yet it retarded all haymaking and cutting down, till near eleven, when the ſun broke forth, from his foggy ob-

ſcurement, and then buſy work was reſumed in the hay fields.

The proſpect for a fine afternoon, ſo unexpectedly appearing, I ordered a ſmall dinner at an early hour, with an intention of going to Maryport in the afternoon, to ſee that part of the Cumbrian coaſt, and to pay a ſhort viſit to Captain Mc. Adam and his lady.

The drive from Workington to Maryport, a new country to me, was pleaſant, though over a *rabbit warren;* for it gave me very diſtinct views of ſome parts of Scotland, which were new to my ſight alſo; having never *yet* viſited the weſtern parts of that kingdom. On my return, Capt. Mc. Adam was ſo good as to attend me as far as the bridge at Workington, and favoured me with a brief hiſtory of Maryport:—That, not many more years than forty had elapſed, ſince there was any appearance of a town there; and that its riſe has been ſo very rapid, that the preſent inhabitants are computed at near three thouſand.—I obſerved the place to have aſſumed the appearance of a ſmall, regular built town. Such a place, for children, I never before noticed. When my chaiſe came into the town, the uſual caſe no doubt, they bruſhed out of the houſes, like bees out of a hive, on a fine ſummer's day; and glomerated about it, as thoſe buſy little animals do about their

their queen, when leading out an infant colony. —Such an uncommon fecundity may be tolerably well accounted for, from the bracing quality of the ſea-breeze, from the prolific quality of fiſh-diet, and from its being ſo new a ſettled colony that all the inhabitants, both males and females, muſt be in the prime of life, and the full vigour of their ſtrength.

WORKINGTON has had nearly as rapid a riſe. It equally ſwarms with children; and the ſame reaſons will account for it, though not of quite ſuch muſhroom growth, as its aſſuming rival.

How uncommonly indulgent has Providence been to that coaſt-diſtrict, from Egremont to Maryport, by filling its bowels with three ſuch very valuable ſubſtances as *coal*, *lime*, and *iron-ore!* creating a rapid accumulation of wealth to the proprietors, and furniſhing inceſſant, beneficial employment to the laborious poor.

30th. A CHARMING, fine ſummer-day, from the earlieſt dawn, to the cloſe of evening; which has made a noble clearing in the hay-fields about this place.—I was in full hopes to have ſailed (by this morning's tide) in the Argyle, for the Iſle of Man; but the captain could not get his veſſel cleared out in time: at

leaſt that is the excuſe: therefore I muſt reſt contented till the morning.

31ſt. (or laſt day)—Was out of bed betwixt five and ſix, entirely prepared for my paſſage, and in full expectation of it, as the wind blew full in point; but was very ſoon mortified, by a meſſage from the captain, that he could not ſail before the evening-tide. Patience was my only remedy.

I determined to amuſe myſelf, during the forenoon, amongſt the building-docks; where I found four large brigs upon the ſlips, and in pretty good forwardneſs. A keel was juſt laying, for a three maſt veſſel, ſeventy-two feet in length.

Douglas,

DOUGLAS, *August* 1st, 1790.

WENT on board the Argyle sloop, of Whitehaven, at six o'clock last night, but could not get out of the harbour till past seven, being frequently entangled with vessels that were leaving, or impeded by others coming into the harbour. When we got into the road, we had a very stiff breeze, blowing from a favourable point, for us; nearly due East; and, after a little time, coming a little northwardly, was still more favourable; and then it became a very strong gale, which soon brought us in with the island, near Ramsey.

WHEN we got into Laxey-bay, we met great numbers of herring-boats, that were going to their respective harbours, bays, or creeks, with the produce of their last night's fishing, in order to supply the country-people with a few, and stay there till Monday morning.—— We saw great numbers going into Douglas-harbour, as we came through the bay.

WE landed just at five o'clock, after a short and (what I call) pleasant passage, though a

hard-blowing one, which ſome of the paſſengers by no means reliſhed. It has turned out a noble hay-day, the wind N. W. by N.—The Whitehaven mail-boat ſailed this evening.

2d. WIND juſt in the ſame point, but bringing in a moſt delightful ſummer morning; calm and ſerene.—Such a morning enticed me up to the Head, by ſix o'clock; and, what is wonderful to relate, when there I could not from that elevated ſituation, and commanding too ſuch an extenſive ſea-view, diſcover one floating object upon it. The ſea ſhone like glaſs, and was ſo placid and ſtill, that, according to the language of one of *our* poets, it was one of thoſe peaceful ſeas "that know no ſtorms," but are gently lifted up and down, by tides.

THERE ſeemed a general conſent in nature, towards quietude, and to make this day truly a ſabbath of reſt, to all the works of creation, ſave wayward man. This is the firſt day, ſince I came into the iſland, that I wiſhed for ſome cooling ſhade, to protect me from the ſcorching rays of the ſun, which I found rather overcoming, in aſcending up to the New Chapel.

3d. A

3d. A MOST wonderful and unpleaſant change in the weather, within the ſhort ſpace of one ſhort night, from the moſt delightful ſummer-weather,—to winter's gloom, and ſtorms. The ſea changed from the moſt placid ſtate, to one highly tempeſtuous and raging; ſending, to the ſhore, one of the foulеſt tides that *I* have ever ſeen enter into this clean, dry harbour. The wind is S. E. and blows ſo furiouſly in at the pier-head, that I much doubt whether any of the herring-boats will venture out, though they are all ready for ſtarting.

THE paſſage-boat, from Liverpool, came into harbour this morning, a little before eight, with fifteen paſſengers on board. Some ſmall ſhowers fell in the forenoon, but the afternoon has been mild and pleaſant; the evening the ſame; flattering us with hopes of a fine day to-morrow.

4th. A MOST delightful morning called me from my ſlumbers, juſt as the town-clock ſounded the firſt ſtroke of five, and tempted me up, at that early hour, to the HILL OF HEALTH; where I very much enjoyed the freſhneſs of the morning-breeze, and the ſhining proſpect of a peaceful ſea. Afterwards

varied

varied the ſcene, by taking a walk of two or three miles, up into the country.

" Straight mine eye then caught new pleaſures,
" Whilſt the landſcape round it meaſures;
" Ruſſet lawns and fallows grey,
" Where the nibbling flocks do ſtray;
" Mountains, on whoſe barren breaſt
" The lab'ring clouds do *often* reſt;
" Meadows trim, with daiſies py'd;
" Shallow brooks that murmuring glide.

—Then returned with a moſt craving appetite for my breakfaſt.

About ten, the herring-boats began to move, and it was a noble ſight, to ſee all the water *cloſely* covered with them, from the pier head to the point. They appeared, at a diſtance, like a large grove of young trees (that has been half-weeded) bowing their heads together, in obedience to an eaſtern-breeze, which blew ſmartly, and ſoon ſent them round the Head.

No ſooner had the Douglas-fleet cleared the ſouth ſide of the bay, than another appeared entering the north ſide; collected from Laxey, Ramſey, and other little fiſhing-places, quite to the Point of Ayr; extending (in a long ſtraggling line) as far as the eye could command.

As

As the evening proved exceedingly warm and pleaſant, yet at the ſame time overcaſt, I flattered myſelf with ſanguine expectations of ſeeing a noble haul of ſalmon brought to the ſhore; but I was diſappointed; for the whole take conſiſted of only three ſalmon-trout, fine ones indeed, being near five pounds a-piece; delightfully fine-fed fiſh.

The day contined fine as well as pleaſant, to the end; but a ſuſpicious lowering, in the afternoon, made ſome unneceſſary buſtle in the hay-fields.

5th. Though there were no cheering rays of the ſun, to tempt me out, the dawn being much overcaſt, yet I left my apartment at a very early hour, and went down to the pier-head, to welcome the firſt approach of the morning-flow. I found it exceedingly pleaſant there, it being perfectly calm, and the air uncommonly bland for this climate; therefore very grateful to my ſenſations: but the mountains had got very dark and heavy coverings upon their ſummits. The naſty black cormorants, and other ſea-birds, were very clamorous and reſtleſs, all along the ſhore; foreboding an unwelcome change, I fear:—

" *Jam ſibi tum curvis malè temperat unda carinis,*
" *Cùm medio celeres revolant ex æquore mergi,*
" *Clamoremque ferunt ad litora, cúmque marinæ*

" *In*

" *In ſicco ludunt fulicæ : notaſque paludes*
" *Deſerit, atque altum ſupra volat ardea nubem.*"

" From the frail bark, that ploughs the raging main,
" The greedy waves unwillingly refrain,
" When loud the cormorant ſcreams, and ſeeks the land,
" And many ſea-gulls ſport upon the ſand ;
" And the tall hern his marſhy haunt forſakes,
" And tow'rs to heav'n, above his fav'rite lakes."

In leſs than an hour, a large, black cloud of ſea-vapour came floating round the point, cauſing an inſtantaneous change in the atmoſphere, from a warm and pleaſant, to a chilly and moſt uncomfortable feel. The wind at the ſame time riſing very much, ſoon brought down black fogs and thick darkneſs from the cloud-capped hills, to brood over the deep; exhibiting this morning as a proof-ſample of that uncommon variableneſs in the weather, which is ſure to be an appendant to this ſmall iſland, from its central ſtation betwixt England and Ireland, in one line, and Scotland and Wales, in the other : therefore, let the clouds ariſe from what quarter they will, they will always have lofty mountains to arreſt them on their paſſage, and receive ſome of their contents.

On my return through the market-place, I found the lazy Manks handicraftsmen, and labourers, juſt beginning to collect and form into knots

knots for converſation; and, according to ancient cuſtom, and modern uſage, ſhouldering up every vacant wall.

When the advance in the day becomes conſiderable, forcing them, out of ſhame, towards their daily calling or labour; they ſeem to proceed there, with as much reluctance and unwillingneſs, as if they were going to the ſtocks, or ſome other ignominious puniſhment. However, I muſt, in juſtice, make an exception in favour of the ſhipwrights and boat-builders, who go to their work at a proper hour, and ſhew a deal of alertneſs (as well as great ſkill) in their buſineſs.

Sir James Bristo's intended jubilee, on board his cutter, takes place to-day; the whole of the fore-deck being covered with an awning, and his guns arranged on the pier-head, to give the company a ſalute, as a ſignal for dinner.

The rain kept off ſurpriſingly, conſidering the ſtrong ſymptoms obſervable to every one; which gave thoſe who had hay out in great cock, an opportunity of ſtealing ſome of it in, in tolerable good plight, after having played the fool ſo egregiouſly, and ſo long with it.

The rain deſcended moſt plentifully about four; at which the guns fired, as a ſignal for dinner. The biſhop's lady, and two of her daughters,

daughters, were of the chearful party, both at dinner and the ball in the evening.

6th. The ſun ſhines bright; but the wind brings bitter cold blaſts with it, from the mountains, ſuch as might well be expected in March, but wonderful, and unſeaſonable, on the ſixth of *Auguſt*, when the reign of the dog-ſtar commences. Some of the hills have their night-caps on, others are without them, ſo that it is difficult to ſay what the fate of the day is likely to be.

The day turned out much better than any one expected; for it proved a very good hay-day; wind Weſt.

7th. A very cool morning, for the ſeaſon. —The fate of the day very precarious, till about nine, when the fog began to ſteal away gradually from the mountain-tops, and the ſun ſhone out, with cheering brightneſs, and a ſmall degree of warmth; juſt enough to meliorate, but not entirely ſubdue, the general chilly diſpoſition of the atmoſphere; which, I am tempted to think, has never entirely recovered, ſince the uncommon ſeverities of the laſt winter, that bland, genial temperature that former experience induced us to hope for and expect, at ſuch an advanced ſtate of the ſummer-ſolſtice.

I am

I am very far from being ſingular, in my *humble* opinion; for every opinion, reſpecting the gracious but unſearchable ways of Providence, ought to be *very humble* indeed, and entirely devoid of all preſumption of belief.

They have been very buſy this day, in bringing in their old, brown hay-cocks, which have ſtood ſo long expoſed to the viciſſitudes of the weather. Wherever the hay was thrown down, the ground was ſo ſtrewed with hay-ſeeds, as to be collected by handfuls, or even ſhoveled up. Their upland hay, the ſort I am now noticing, conſiſts *chiefly* of rye-graſs, which (when cut young, and managed in the moſt judicious manner) makes but a very ſorry kind of hay; but treated in that abſurd manner, which it receives from the general practice of this neighbourhood, loſes all its ſeeds; in which alone its only goodneſs, as hay graſs, conſiſts. They might learn better practices, from the few Engliſh farmers that have been lately tranſplanted into the iſland; but the natives are too much wedded to their *own, old* ways and cuſtoms, ever to profit much by any examples.

" When hungry vultures leave their prey,
" And warble through the grove;
" When wanton linnets quit the ſpray,
" And ſwains forget to love,"—

Then

Then may we expect to find docility, and rational modes of husbandry, amongst the Manks farmers;—but not before.

8th. When I first quitted my apartment, a very gloomy thick fog obscured the whole island, from the hills down to the rocky shore; but there was a kind of brightness in the wind's eye, full south, which afforded some hopes that the day might clear up, when the sun got a little more power. A very tight contest took place betwixt the glorious old fog-thrasher, and his gloomy antagonist; which lasted upwards of three hours; when the latter was entirely routed, and the chearful face of nature restored, to the joy of multitudes.

I was most highly delighted with seeing the return of the herring boats, this forenoon; such multitudes, that the whole bay was covered with them. Great numbers, crowding in for this harbour; great numbers, steering across the bay, hoisting as much sail as they could; eager to get to their respective harbours and creeks, with their well-earned booty.

A glorious hay-day, succeeded by a delightful evening, promising what has been so very long wanted and wished for, some settled summer-weather.

9th. A

9th. A FINE morning, with the wind full eaſt. A general hazineſs prevails both at ſea and land; but the laſt evening was ſo very fine, and warm, that the lofty mountains forgot to put on their night caps, or at leaſt, had thrown them off, at a very early hour; for even Snafield ſtood bare headed, when I firſt turned out; therefore, I truſt, the hazineſs portends heat, and not rain.

THE mail boat was ſo very long beyond her uſual time, that people here began to be uneaſy about her, eſpecially as the weather had been ſo fine for ſome days paſt. I own, I could not help fearing that ſome untoward accident muſt have happened to have occaſioned ſuch an extraordinary delay, as no tidings whatever had been heard of her; therefore, determined to mount the hill, to Douglas Head, to ſee if ſhe was in ſight: the wind having been favourable all the preceding day and night, and was ſtill ſo, and the breeze a very decent one. I enjoyed my walk upon the hill very much, for an hour or upwards, before I could diſcover any object upon the water; but, as I was coming down, I ſaw a veſſel oppoſite Laxey, and ſoon made out a topſail, which perfectly ſatisfied me. She got into the harbour about one.—The neceſſity of getting a new maſt into her, was the ſole cauſe of delay.

10th. ANOTHER fine, fair morning, the wind blowing freſhly from the Eaſt, making ſome little ſwell in the bay. Delightful weather, for finiſhing the hay harveſt, and ripening the corn. It is wonderful, as well as moſt pleaſing, to obſerve what a happy change one week of fine weather has made in the barley crops; which, upon the light and ſandy lands near the ſhore, are very near ripe enough for cutting down. Let us all therefore gratefully confeſs, "That God hath not forgotten to be gracious."

SOON after one, the Langriſh cutter unmoored, and left the harbour. Very ſoon afterwards, all the herring boats were in motion, as well as ſeveral wherries and ſmacks, their *purchaſing* attendants, to the fiſhing bank. It was a moſt entertaining ſight; the appearance being like a moving grove of trees; a circumſtance that never did, nor ever could, exiſt, but in the fertile imagination of a moſt wonderful poet; that he could ſet Birnham wood in motion, and thereby appal the once *undaunted* ſpirit of Macbeth:—for

"His poetic eye, in a fine phrenſy rolling,
"Could glance from earth to heav'n, from heav'n to
"earth,"

—And by his happy magic powers could
——— "give

——— " give, to airy nothing,
" A local habitation, and a name;—
" And make e'en things inanimate to move."

THE ſalmon fiſhery was wonderfully ſucceſsful, bringing to ſhore above four hundred weight of fine fiſh, at one drag. They ſold at twopence halfpenny per pound. Finer, or better flavoured, ſalmon were never taken in *any* country.

11th. A FINE, clear morning, the wind blowing freſhly from the eaſt; which made it rather cooliſh, at an early hour; but as the day advanced, the wind grew more temperate, and the air more mild; acquiring, before midday, a true ſummer warmth. There were ſeveral that complained of heat, but I was not one of the number, having never ſought ſhade, for the ſake of ſhelter from the raging dog ſtar's heat, ſince that *uſual* ſeaſon for *ſultry* hours has taken place.

ANOTHER noble drag of ſalmon, equal at leaſt to that of yeſterday.—An account is juſt brought here, from Port Iron, that their little fleet came in this morning, with a fine take of herrings; above twelve thouſand per boat; fine, plump, and in full ſeaſon. There is the place, for the luxurious appetites, with reſpect

to ſea-dainties, to be fully indulged in. Beſides all the moſt choice kinds of fiſh, which the northern climes can boaſt, there is a marine animal, called the battle-cock, ſometimes found ſticking to the rocks, that has almoſt all the deſirable properties of the turtle; abounding with a ſubſtance that is eſteemed a very good ſubſtitute for that moſt delicious food, the green fat.

THE account given me of the battle cock, by thoſe who have ſeen them, and taſted them, is as follows:—That the marine creature has a round place upon its breaſt, exactly reſembling the ſucker of a pump, by which it adheres ſo cloſely to its choſen ſpot on the rock, where it ſits in the attitude of a frog, as not to be removed from thence, but by ſome act of intentional force, or ſome accidental violence. My very civil hoſt, at the Liverpool coffee-houſe, procured one for his gueſts about ſix months ago. I wiſh it may be my lot to ſee and taſte one before I leave the iſland, being ſo rare, and ſo novel a production of nature, to me. The battle cock, I learn, is found, now and then, upon ſome of the rocky ſhores, on the weſtern ſide of Scotland.

12th. A VERY fine morning, but was rather cooliſh upon the ſand, at an early hour; the

the wind blowing full eaſt, and *then* very briſkly too; but it ſoon abated in its force, and became very mild and pleaſant.

THOUGH the laſt evening was very warm, I ſubmitted to a ſtew in the play-houſe, in order to ſee Mrs. Blanchard, in the part of Oriana. She played the character, in general, very well; but, in the two feigned parts, the *nun*, and the *maniac*, ſhe had inſupportable difficulties to encounter; nature giving ſtrong contradiction, or rather rebelling againſt the firſt, by teſtifying, in every feature, and every graceful motion, that there could be no nun's fleſh appertaining to her; and her ſenſible, expreſſive eyes ſtrongly declaring that no moping melancholy could then be an inhabitant within *her* breaſt.

THIS, it ſeems, is the annual fair at Balla-Salley. In taking a walk, after breakfaſt, down the Caſtletown road, great numbers paſſed me, in their way there; and, on my return, met ſeveral Douglas miſſes, with a profuſion of various coloured ribbons (upon their riding hats) floating in the wind. I ſhould not wonder if one of them, who really had a ſweet face, ſhould captivate the *young chief*, in ſpite of *his noſe*.

THE Prince of Wales's birth day was properly remembered, by many, even in this re-

mote iſland, and where we live under a kind of divided ſovereignty too; but his princely virtues muſt command reſpect wherever the fame of them reaches. His conduct, upon a late melancholy occaſion, having evinced the goodneſs of his heart, beyond the poſſibility of a doubt; converting infidels into believers.

13th. ANOTHER fine morning, very pleaſant, mild, and ſerene, though the wind has ſhifted a point and a half to the northward. There was a good deal of ſwell in the bay; but from what cauſe I cannot divine; as the evening, night, and morning have been all ſo tranquil.

A NUMBER of cormorants have been fluttering about the ſhore. I did not admire the ſight of thoſe filthy birds, and ſeeing them ſo very lively too: but in ſpite of ſuch a ſuſpicious omen, the day has continued very fine, and is cloſed by a delightful evening.

14th. For a wonder, I thought it too hot, during my morning ſtroll, which was a very airy one, being round the Great How, and from thence down to the ſteep ſhore; which I followed a conſiderable way, catching, at times, a moſt refreſhing breeze from the ſea.

UPON looking into the valuation of the religious

ligious houſes, upon the diſſolution of the monaſteries, I find the Benedictine Nunnery, at Seton, near Bootle, in Cumberland, was valued at thirteen ſhillings and ſixpence higher than Calder, or Cawder Abbey, though that was founded upon the Ciſtercian order:—and three times more than Armthwaite, in the ſaid county.

15th. This morning is of the ſame agreeable ſtamp as ſeveral preceding ones.—Capt. Mc. Adam arrived here, laſt night, from Peel, where he had landed from Maryport.—I took a morning airing with him, in his whiſky, and went as far as Balla Salley, to have another peep at the venerable ruins there.—The more I ſee of the ſituation, choſen by thoſe religious, the more I muſt applaud their diſcernment and taſte, in making choice of the moſt comfortable and ſnug place within that ſouth part of the iſland, for their reſidence.

I was encountered, this day, with one of the moſt terrible borers, that ever poor mortal was tormented with; and that, in the moſt ſultry afternoon that this iſland has known during this ſummer ſeaſon. He was juſt of the ſame caſt as the Roman borer, whom the poet ſo grievouſly complains of; only mine *talked me* to death, the other *read his* patients to death.—

" *Indoctum doctùmque fugat recitator acerbus;*
" *Quem verò arripuit, tenet, occiditque legendo,*
" *Non missura cutem nisi plena cruoris hirudo.*"

" The learned, and unlearned, he purſues;
" But if he ſeize you, then the torture dread;
" He faſtens on you till he read you dead;
" And like a leech, voracious of his food,
" Quits not his cruel hold till gorg'd with blood."

A VESSEL arrived from Liverpool, with ſeveral paſſengers on board; amongſt them one gentleman from near Warrington, with a moſt ſickly, debilitated appearance. I fear he will be ſoon bound for a more diſtant country,—" that country, from whoſe" inhoſpitable " bourn, no traveller returns."

IT is ſurpriſing to ſee the great numbers of ſtrangers that are *now* viſiting this iſland, either for pleaſure, curioſity, or the hopes of recovering loſt health. No place can afford better natural conveniencies, for ſea-bathing, than this iſland; having ſo many charming bays; and where the water is ſo pure, ſo pellucid, and ſo free from every kind of ſullage; and the ſhores ſo ſafe, ſo comfortable, and devoid of every entanglement: affording alſo many ſnug little receſſes, or creeks, for dipping in; where the water will be found in a quieſcent ſtate; even when there happens to be a pretty ſtrong breeze at ſea.

16th. A

16th. A DELIGHTFUL, ſerene, and warm morning enticed a Mancheſter gentleman and myſelf up to the Head, at an early hour. He was quite delighted with the fine, extenſive proſpect from thence; which was novel to him, having never been before upon the noble promontory.

THE New Church was never ſo filled with ſtrangers, ſince it was firſt opened for Service, as it was at the morning-ſervice of this day. It gives great ſpirits to the natives, to ſee their iſland ſo much noticed; and ſome gentlemen of property talk of having proper bathing-machines got ready, againſt the next ſeaſon; in order to induce thoſe (to whom its natural advantages are a little known) to reviſit the iſland, and encourage other ſtrangers to follow their example.

SEVERAL gentlemen, who uſed to pay Blackpool an annual viſit, and have been here this ſeaſon, give this iſland greatly the preference; and talk of making it their annual reſort, for the ſalutary purpoſe of ſea-bathing.

17th. I WAS moſt highly pleaſed this morning, for a ſecond time, with ſeeing all the herring-boats go out of the harbour and bay, towards their fiſhing ground, and meeting, near the Point, the van of the northern fleet, which

which formed a ſtraggling, irregular line of ſeveral miles in length. There could not be a more pleaſing, lively ſcene; the whole bay being covered with beautiful, clever boats, ſcudding before the wind, in different tacks, in order to round the Head. All was buſtle and chearful induſtry, amongſt the hardy fiſhermen; every crew moſt anxious to be the *firſt* upon the proper ſtation, and moſt intent, to get to their *darling* buſineſs.

" *Qualis apes æſtate novâ per florea rura*
" *Exercet ſub ſole labor.*"

" Thus to their toils, in early ſummer, run
" The cluſt'ring bees, and labour in the ſun."

Two veſſels, from Liverpool, came in, freighted with a hundred and fifteen puncheons of rum, beſides other merchandiſe, for the uſe of the iſland. In the evening, three veſſels ſailed for Liverpool, with ſeveral gentlemen and ladies on board, going from the iſland, to their reſpective homes at Liverpool and Mancheſter; but ſome ſtill remain here, (to enjoy the fine weather and delicious bathing) for ſome days longer. The " natus conſumere fruges" man, from Liverpool,—(though an alien to the houſe) took his ſeat *again*, at our plentiful board. He is one of thoſe

thoſe that cannot be ſaid *fairly* to eat, but *truly* to *devour*, *double* the portion of victuals he pays for; and that in a manner ſo diſguſting, to all around him, as to occaſion a petition from every one of the ſociety, that he may never be *again* allowed to take a place there.

I REMEMBER an anecdote of a perſon in London, one bred to a very *reſpectable* profeſſion, who was become ſo well *known*, and ſo *feared* too, for his enormous powers of digeſtion, by the owners of the ſeveral decent ordinaries, in and about the Garden, that whenever he was ſeen coming towards any one of them, the waiter uſed to meet him, with his maſter's and miſtreſs's compliments, and expreſſing their concern that their table was ſo full *that* day, that it would not allow admittance to another gueſt;—preſenting him, at the ſame time, with a ſhilling, to pay coach-hire to another place of entertainment. The perſon was wiſe enough to know, and take the *hint*, as well as the ſhilling; and when he had got a few more gratuities, in the *ſame* manner, would *deſcend* into one of thoſe *noted eating-ſhops*, where the knives and forks are chained to the table, for fear of an unlucky eſcape from their *right* owners;——and where the greateſt glutton may be ſatisfied,

by

by having as many cuts of beef and pudding, as he can afford to pay for.

18th. A most delightful morning, ſucceeded by a very hot day; ſo hot as to make noon-tide ſhade coveted by all.—A very late viſit was paid me laſt night, by a Mancheſter gentleman, who deſired to introduce to me a Daniſh ſtranger, Mr. Thorkelin, profeſſor of natural hiſtory and antiquities, at Copenhagen; who came here, by the expreſs order of his Daniſh Majeſty, to inveſtigate what remains were to be now met with, demonſtrative of the Daniſh power and dominion formerly within the iſland. He addreſſed me with great politeneſs, and requeſted me to favour him with what diſcoveries I had been able to make, in *that* line, and point out to him where they were to be met with:—ſaying, he was informed (by ſome gentlemen) that I had not only been very curious in that way, but alſo very induſtrious, in making reſearches as to the antiquities of the iſland in general; and eſpecially thoſe that reſpected *their* country. I remarked to him *all* the diſcoveries that I had been able to make, on the ſubject of *his* enquiries, and *where*; at the ſame time aſſuring him, that all knowledge of *that* kind muſt be very imperfect, and, in a great meaſure, conjectural; as there were but very few

few written records to aſſiſt ſtrangers, in their wiſhed inveſtigations, or (in any degree) to illucidate the ſubject. He moſt civilly thanked me, for the trifling information I was *able* to give him; ſaying, he was very ſenſible of the difficulties I had pointed out to him.

At their departure, they requeſted me to breakfaſt with them the next morning, which was readily conſented to.

19th. This morning is equally delightful as the preceding one.—I breakfaſted with the gentlemen, where I met with Doctor Scott, to whom the ingenious foreigner had been recommended, for the information he wanted to gain of the iſland. The route he was to purſue, for that purpoſe, was then ſettled, by Caſtletown, Peel, Kirkmichael, Biſhop's-Court, and ſo to Ramſey.—This day has proved quite as hot, as the laſt.—My hoſt's brother was taken very ill, on Monday night, and is not likely to recover the dreadful conſequence of intemperance in *the extreme*.

20th. Another very hot morning.—The poor man has paid the laſt debt to nature, in the middle ſtage of life, with a conſtitution and robuſtneſs of frame that would, probably, have carried him on to *very* old age, if allowed

but

but *tolerable* fair-play. I wiſh it may prove a *ſerious* warning, to all morning-tipplers, eſpecially thoſe who were his *conſtant, early* companions at the bottle.

THE Daniſh gentleman has left the iſland, without being able to make any new diſcoveries. Indeed his ſtay was too ſhort to allow thoſe ſtrict and minute explorings, from which (with his perfect knowledge of the Runic-characters) ſome very valuable diſcoveries might have been expected; ſuch as would have rewarded the toil of ſo very long a journey. He told me a gentleman at Caſtletown had *obligingly* preſented him with three, or four, Daniſh medals, found in that neighbourhood; amongſt them one of Canute.

21ſt. SET out, ſoon after five, with Capt. Mc. Adam, for the pariſh of Kirk Andrew, on the north ſide of the iſland, to try to find out, and inſpect, the remains of ſome encampment in that *remote* part, of which I had heard ſeveral vague reports; ſuch as its having been the ſtrong hold of one of the kings, or chiefs, of the iſle; where he reſiſted the cruel inroads of the Danes; and ſome others of the like kind, equally fabulous.

NOT knowing the road, for we had no guide but tradition, we were obliged to make enquiry from

from houſe to houſe, (after we had quitted the Ramſey road) after *an old camp*, ſomewhere in that neighbourhood. At laſt, we were ſo fortunate as to meet with a ſenſible, civil, young girl, who informed us, That the old fort (for ſo ſhe called it) was a few fields behind Mr. Chriſtian's houſe, at Balla Hurry, and pointed out the way it laid from the place where we then were:—ſenſibly adding, That there were ſome fine young plantations of fir-trees, about the houſe. With that clue we were able, at leaſt, to find the houſe.

Mr. Christian came out, and upon being informed of our wild-gooſe-chaſe, and the object that had led us into it, moſt civilly offered to conduct us to it; taking us through his own well-cultivated grounds, to the old camp; and a noble one it is; but alas! of modern date; —not older than Charles the Firſt's time. I have ſeen the remains of ſeveral that were formed during the time of the civil war, correſponding ſo exactly, in the mode of conſtruction with this, that I cannot entertain a doubt about the age of it; and am induced to think it was one of Cromwell's general's, when he had troops in this iſland, to reduce it under the power of the common-wealth.

It is the moſt complete of any I can recollect obſerving (even in England) of *that* time; and

and the ſituation of it is a moſt eligible one; being formed upon a ſmall, natural eminence, in a very level diſtrict. There are four noble baſtions, at the four corners, and it is ſurrounded with a wet foſſé, of very ample dimenſions. The internal ſquare, for the troops to encamp upon, is a fine level piece of ground, ſunk ſo much below the baſtions and curtains, as effectually to ſecure the troops within, from any *outward* aſſailment by fire arms. There is not the leaſt breach in the works.

When we had ſufficiently gratified our curioſity, we deſcended with our obliging guide, who very politely entreated us to go into his houſe, and accept of a little refreſhment; an offer that, after travelling ſo many miles, on a very hot day, and through the moſt ſandy, duſty roads, could not be refuſed.

Balla Hurry is a very pretty, dry ſituation, made very beautiful and pleaſant, by ſome charming plantations; and thoſe laid out in a very judicious and taſty ſtyle. They are rather of above twenty years growth, and continue in the moſt thriving, nay luxuriant ſtate; a proof that the ſoil of the country, in *general*, is not inimical to the growth of wood; for the plantations are formed of all the moſt choice kinds of foreſt trees and evergreens, properly intermixed. His mode of farming is in a ſtyle far

far ſuperior to any I have *yet* been acquainted with, in the Iſland, being in the drill-huſbandry way, and his crops clean from weeds; which is a *rare* ſight in a country that abounds more with trumpery of every kind, than any place I was ever in, ſave ſome diſtricts in France, where the growth of the moſt peſtiferous weeds is *tolerated*, in the fineſt ſoils, through mere lazineſs and poverty of ſpirit.

We took our leave of Mr. Chriſtian (after cordially thanking him, for his hoſpitality and great politeneſs to two entire ſtrangers) returning by the ſame intricate road we came, till we got into the Ramſey road, and from thence to Kirkmichael, where it was neceſſary to make a tolerable long bait, on account of the horſes. A ſmall ſhower fell during our ſtay there; and ſo heavy an one, on our return from thence, as moſt effectually to lay *that* duſt, which we found ſo very troubleſome, in the morning.

22d. I could not help fearing (from the wetneſs of the laſt evening) the loſs of that delightful ſummer ſeaſon, which had juſt continued three weeks; but though the morning was cold, yet the afternoon has been very pleaſant, and the day has paſſed over, without any ſymptom of a change, ſave a very ſtrilling ſhower at mid-day.

In our excurſion, yeſterday, obſerved a good deal of barley already cut down, and the crops, in *general*, (throughout the whole of the northern diſtrict) quite ready for the reaper's hand; yet a great deal of hay ſtill to get in; and, what is ſtill worſe, one third part of the mowing-grounds *ſtill* uncut; which indicates the moſt *aſtoniſhing* ſupineneſs, a moſt *obſtinate* adherence to old cuſtoms, and the moſt irrational management in that very *material* article of a farmer's attention and benefit. What is ſtanding now, is not worth the trouble and expence of making it; good oat ſtraw being far preferable to ſuch withered ſtuff, for the winter-food of any kind of cattle.

Mr. Christian had been marling a field, which we had noticed as we paſſed by it in our way to the houſe; my friend obſerved, That, from the colour of it, it ſeemed more like clay than marl. The gentleman replied, That the colour, or appearance, muſt prejudice it in the opinion of thoſe who were ſtrangers to its properties, one of which was, "that upon being expoſed to the ſun and air, for a very "ſhort time, it would fall like lime; and was "found to have a very fertiliſing quality, by "thoſe who had tried it, being a ſhell marl." —I have a ſpecimen of it, in my keeping.

The coming in of the tide, this day, exhibited

hibited one of the moſt pleaſing, lively water proſpects, that can be imagined:—The herring boats, coming round the Head, into the bay (on their return to their reſpective harbours or creeks) and covering the whole ſurface of it.

23d. The morning was rather raw and guſty; but the ſun breaking out, about ten, made the reſt of the day tolerably pleaſant. The wind N. W. by W.

24th. A pretty fine morning; the wind in the ſame quarter as yeſterday. The herring boats began to leave this harbour about two o'clock; the van of the northern fleet making its appearance at the ſame time, off Bank's How, or the eaſtern part of the bay.

Three Scotch gentlemen arrived here, yeſterday, from Ramſey, where they had put in with their *own* boat; and, this day, they joined the *houſe* ſociety. One of them ſoon made known to us, That he was *laird* of the party, *laird* of a noble iſland, and *laird* of the boat, as being ſole proprietor of it. That his *coos* were of a ſuperior breed (for giving *gude* milk) to any in aw Britain. That cheeſe, equal to the beſt Cheſhire, might be made from their milk, wherever they were paſtured, e'en upon the

moſt barren mountains in Wales! That the *peculiar* excellency, or *quality*, of cheeſe depended upon the right breed of *coos*, ſuch as theirs, and not at aw upon the nature, or property, of the ſoil where they were kept."—An opinion ſo novel, ſo ſingular, ſo *diametrically* oppoſite to all the information I had been able to gather, from books, upon the ſubject; and laid down too with the moſt compoſed confidence, not a little ſurpriſed me; and I was going to quote ſome authorities, directly opponent to his *new* principle, when fortunately (for my lungs) I recollected that I had never been able to waſh a blackamoor white; therefore it would be folly, in the extreme, to attempt a far more arduous buſineſs.

One of the party I took to be chaplain to his *lairdſhip*; but, in that ſuppoſition, I might be miſtaken. Of this, however, I am very certain; That he was one of the ancient family of toad-eaters; being ever ready to turn *Bowman*, and give his ſanction, or vouchment, to every abſurdity, or ſtrange poſition, that flowed from the lips of the high and mighty chief.

25th. A few of the boats are returned, nobly filled; which makes the people of the town quite alive, and in high ſpirits: the fiſhermen ſpeaking, in the moſt ſanguine terms, about

about the fine proſpect there is of general ſucceſs;—that the main body, or ſhoal, has made a conſiderable movement forward, being now off Longneſs, the moſt ſouthern point of the main iſland. They, therefore, think they will be ſhortly off this bay.

26th. A VERY pleaſant, mild morning tempted me to take a pretty long walk into the country, by Pulroſe, up to Mr. S. Wilſon's farm, where I obſerved ſome very ſpirited improvements going forward; ſuch as do great credit to the owner; and ſo round by Kirk Bradden. Obſerved reapers cutting barley, in ſeveral fields; but, at the ſame time, was *obliged* to obſerve many acres of hay to carry in;—ſhame on ſuch egregious neglect and idleneſs.—If there were no other reaſon for reprobating ſuch a lazy cuſtom, but its interference with the corn harveſt, it would be ſufficient to damn it, in the opinion of all rational beings.

27th. FIFTEEN or ſixteen boats came in this morning, which, according to the Manks term, had made a very good fiſhing. The induſtry and activity it occaſioned in the place would have been very pleaſing to my ſenſations, if it had not been ſo very offenſive to one of them *wherever* I went; I muſt, therefore, for

awhile, forſake my favourite ſtrolls to the pier-head and the ſands, and ſteal out into the country, by the ſhorteſt path I can find; *there* to breathe the pure air of the morning, where the herring-hogo cannot taint the gale; and where my eyes will not be offended with the *offal* of *dog-fiſh*.

28th. A TOLERABLY pleaſant morning; the wind blowing with ſome little force, from the Weſt. About twenty boats came in, plentifully ſtored with fiſh, which made buſy work in the town; great numbers out of the country (even from the mountains) coming in to purchaſe their *winter ſtore*; many of the poor people of the place were doing the ſame. The great body of herrings ſtill keeps moving forwards, and approaching (every day) nearer to this bay.

29th. A GUSTY and very unpleaſant morning. The Whitehaven packet boat is arrived with a conſiderable number of paſſengers on board, all horribly tired, and ſeveral very ſick, having had a very unpleaſant, as well as tedious paſſage. The herring boats that came in early yeſterday, with their noble cargoes, returned to their fiſhing buſineſs again, in the evening. The bay was quite covered about twelve

twelve, by the return of the whole fleet, from a ſucceſsful fiſhing.

30th. A VERY fine and pleaſant morning, with the wind at N. E.—which, I hope, portends a continuance of noble harveſt weather.—Attended ſervice at the New Church, in the morning; went to hear the ſenſible Mr. Colquhon, in the afternoon.

31ſt. BEING a very fine morning, and moſt promiſing too for continuing fair, (the wind blowing from a north eaſterly point) I took the reſolution of viſiting Mr. Crellin, on the north ſide of the iſland, who had not only invited me very civilly to his houſe, but promiſed me alſo much entertainment (in my way) from what he ſhould be able to ſhew me, both of Daniſh and Druidical remains, in the neighbourhood of his place.

I GOT there about eleven, and was moſt politely received by Mrs. Crellin, Mr. Crellin being gone a little way upon buſineſs; and was civilly inſtructed by her, how to proceed in my firſt reſearches, till Mr. Crellin returned, to accompany me in my longer ſtroll. The firſt viſit I paid was to an eminence, juſt behind the houſe, which I had noticed two or three times, from the Ramſey road, under the pre-

ſumption of being a Daniſh barrow or berg; and, on approaching it, found my conjectures were very right; being a moſt perfect, as well as noble one; raiſed as a ſepultural monument, no doubt, for ſome Daniſh chief, or ſome officer of rank and renown, amongſt that enterpriſing, warlike people.

From thence I paſſed to a neighbouring eminence, that well deſerves noticing, for ſome valuable relics, though of a very different nature; as it ſtill retains, upon its ſummit, moſt plain veſtiges of a Druidical temple, an undoubted place of worſhip, (as well as legiſlation) for the moſt extraordinary ſet of myſtical religioniſts, that perhaps the world was ever acquainted with.

The forms of all their temples I have ever met with, ſave ſome in Wiltſhire, are exactly correſpondent to each other; but their dimenſions very different, as well as the quality of the huge, rude ſtones, or ſubſtances, with which the *ſacred* limits were circumſcribed. Thoſe that ſurround the ſanctum ſanctorum of that alluded to, are maſſy pebbles of white, ſhining ſpar; and thoſe that form the portico, or entrance, are two moſt ponderous grey pebbles, of a grain, or ſubſtance, very different from any ſtone (viſible) in that country; therefore muſt have been procured from ſome part of

of the ſea ſhore, or ſome very diſtant diſtrict. How they contrived to get ſuch huge, heavy bodies brought up to that high ground, and ſo very firmly fixed there as to *brave* removal, is a wonder, or myſtery, that perhaps will never be unravelled. That the ancient Gauls, or Germans, underſtood the uſe of ſome of the mechanical powers pretty well, cannot be doubted; and that the Druidical ſyſtem had its origin in *that* part of Europe, is, I believe, pretty generally allowed.

WHILST I was ſurveying thoſe remains, with a kind of veneration, I obſerved a fine level clod, at ſome diſtance from me, (upon the lofty beech) which was perfectly level, ſmooth, and circular; elevated too above the ſurrounding ſurface of the ground. The novelty of the ſight ſoon led me there, where I found it ſurrounded, firſt, by a regular excavation (from which it had acquired its elevation) and then by a regular mound, entirely correſponding with the inward circles. It reminded me of King Arthur's round table, near Penrith; only it was larger in circumference, and much more elevated; for it might be diſtinguiſhed at a mile's diſtance upon level ground.

HAVING then proceeded as far as I had any clue to direct me, I returned towards the houſe, intending

intending to wait Mr. Crellin's return, before I went to inſpect the humble manſions of the dead, which was the *primary* object of that day's purſuit. Before I reached the houſe, I met Mr. Crellin coming up to me; I, therefore, turned back with him to the place I had been laſt noticing. He ſaid, he muſt have frequently ſeen it, in paſſing that way; but he had never been induced to take *particular* notice of it before; but, upon the exact circular form, the elevation, excavation, and the mound in particular, ſo exactly correſponding with the interior circles, being pointed out to him, he entirely agreed with me, that it muſt have been a work of art and deſign, and not of nature, or chance: though *equally* at a loſs, to gueſs what the deſign was, or what the *original* uſe of it could be. There is not a ſtone of *any* ſize, to be obſerved any way near it; ſo could not be meant as a work of defence.

The level ground, along the preſent beech, is a fine graſſy turf, extending for a conſiderable length, and was of a pretty conſiderable width *formerly*. For, according to Mr. Crellin's information, it extended above a quarter of a mile farther, (in Biſhop Wilſon's time) into the channel; for that was the favourite airing ground of the worthy *old* gentleman, in his *old* chariot; as many people (now living) can

can well remember. And it ſeems very probable that fine piece of heath ground, on that lofty ſhore ſide, was the common, or choſen ſepultural ground of the Danes, in that part of the iſland; as ſuch numbers of cells have been (from time to time) diſcovered, all along that lofty beach; laid open to view by the continued encroachments of a furious ſea upon it, by undermining and waſhing away its earthy foundation.

We then ſcrambled down the ſteep, high bank, as well as we could, on the dry, pebbly ſhore; and proceeded along it for ſome time, before we could diſcover any thing in *our* way: but, after ſome ſhort ſpace, Mr. Crellin obſerved a cell (very near the top of the high mound) which appeared to have, *very recently*, loſt its contents; and which we were fortunate enough to diſcover amongſt ſome *fallen* rubbiſh. The urn, or ſepultural earthen veſſel, (for it differs much, in ſhape, from the Roman ſepultural urn) was broken; but the covering, or protecting ſtones, were found and entire: the end ſtones, about a foot high; the covering ſtone, about two feet long.

In proceeding along, we obſerved ſeveral empty cells, and met with ſome of their contents, at the bottom of the beach. Before

fore we left the ſhore, we were ſo lucky as to ſee *one* that was laid open to view, by a freſh fall, but ſtill retained all its furniture. The diſtance from the ſurface, to the ſepultural range of cells, is generally the ſame; about twenty inches from the covering ſtones; about *which* they ſeem to have had a *choice*; being all of a bluiſh colour; but not always ſo about the end ſtones; thoſe being ſometimes brown, ſometimes blue. The former ſeem to be the very ſame kind of ſtone, as the common grave-ſtones, in Kirk Michael church-yard. We found many afterwards; ſeven or eight in a regular range.

HAVING ſatisfied our curioſity, as well as our legs, pretty well, we returned with keen appetites, to a plentiful board, where I was full as much pleaſed with the politeneſs and good-humour that ſurrounded the table, as with the hoſpitality and excellent fare that crowned it.

IT was a moſt delightful warm day, a glorious reaping day for the farmers, who had long ſtrings of females, cutting away in almoſt every field; (in one field I counted ſeventeen females) and it was a noble reaping day for myſelf; in my *unprofitable* harveſt; for whilſt the lad was giving his horſes a little hay and water, at the humble ale-houſe in Kirk Michael

chael village, I ſtrolled down to the *humble* church and church-yard; but, having looked over all the conſecrated ground, once, or twice, before, and that with great attention, a fancy took me to examine ſome rabbiſh places on the outſide, in hopes of finding ſome neglected, or ſlighted relics: and it was a lucky fancy; for I had not gone far before I ſtumbled upon a venerable ſtone, diſplaying (by rude chiſeling) the figure of ſome mighty Daniſh chief, in *complete ſteel*. I inſtantly reſcued the warrior from his ignominious concealment, bringing him into a ſafe place, where I could eaſily, on my return, take him into my carriage, and convey him into more reſpectable quarters.

I TOOK my leave of my benefactors, about half paſt five, and drove near to Kirk Michael Church, where I received the ancient, venerable hero into the chaiſe, and carried him in triumph to Douglas.

September 1ſt. THIS month makes a moſt boiſterous entrance; being the moſt ſtormy morning (though the evening was ſo very fine and mild) that we have had for a very long time. The wind blowing ſo furiouſly, from S. E. by E. makes a terrible ſwell in this bay, and even into the entrance of the harbour; the waves going over the higheſt part of the pier-head,

pier-head, and throwing the ſpray ſo far, that there is no coming near it.

When I got into my apartments, the laſt evening, much pleaſed with the entertainment and diſcoveries of the day, I began to think, *with attention*, about the graſs-circle I had met with, near the ſhore;—for what uſe, or purpoſe, it could be originally intended.

My firſt thoughts inclined to a place of feſtivity; where the chief, or ruler, of that part of the iſland might, poſſibly, have given an annual ſummer-entertainment, to his warriors, or knights; in like ſtyle and manner as King Arthur *(e)* was wont to do to *his* Knights of the *Round Table*, in England.—But another conjecture ſoon afterwards occurred; That finding it to be about the central part of their chief depoſitarium for the dead, that circle might poſſibly be the uſual place of cremation and inurnment; where they burned the bodies of the ſlain; collected their *ſeparate* aſhes, and depoſited thoſe aſhes in *humble* urns, or *vaſes*, of clay.

I have ſeen ſeveral of the ſame form and ſubſtance, and equally ill-burnt too, that were

(e) Some hiſtorians ſay, That renowned prince conquered this iſland.

found

found, in a field, within the townſhip of Breightmet, near *Great* Bolton; juſt above the point where the new road to that town, from Bury, diverges from the ancient one by Hicketford. Local tradition hath, uniformly, delivered down to us the ſmall town, or village, of Hicketford, as the identical place, or ſcene, where a *mighty battle* was fought, betwixt the natives and their reſtleſs invaders, the Danes; in which furious conteſt, the latter were routed, and very great numbers ſlain. It is certain, the field alluded to contains the *aſhes* of *vaſt* numbers; for the plough never goes to work in it, without pointing upon ſome. I have had ſeveral *broken* vaſes ſent me, ſo found; and *one* that was very nearly perfect. Hicketford has the pre-eminence of having the firſt annual fair held within its humble precincts; being on the fifth of January; but *why* it enjoys that pre-eminence, I will not preſume to ſet down.

I NEXT adverted to that day's acquiſition at Kirk Michael; and could not help forming an opinion, that the venerable ſtone once enjoyed a place in or about the church; but when the Daniſh power ended in the iſland, with it ended all reſpect and fear towards the mighty chiefs, or rulers of that hardy people; and then, that ſome perſons (poſſeſſed of more

zeal

zeal than knowledge) had removed the harmleſs memorial, from out of the ſacred pale, to a place of obſcurity, never to be more noticed; out of the mean notion of *national* inſult and revenge. The ſtone has received ſome little injury; but it is not ſo mutilated as to prevent the intention of the artiſt from being fully expreſſed. He has cloathed his warlike figure in complete armour, with a helmet upon his head, and a *tremendous broad-ſword* hanging before him, ſuſpended by two ſtraps from a *ſtudded* belt; with which he has (properly) girded his warrior, to make him invulnerable at *all* points. He has repreſented him too with his arms uplifted (with his fingers gripped) in a ſolemn, ſupplicating poſture, as if intreating *that*, which every one muſt ſtand in need of, at one time, MERCY.

I SAW a *bald*, old monk, at Bruſſels, ſtand beſide the altar, in the *very ſame* attitude; with uplifted arms and hands; his body motionleſs; his eyes turned up and motionleſs alſo; and, in that ſolemn, devotional poſture, he remained during the performance of a long ſervice, *to my very great ſurpriſe*.

THE barrow, I had examined yeſterday, confirmed an opinion long adopted, That ſome monuments of the Danes were very diſtinguiſhable from the tumuli of the Romans; by having

having a broader baſis, or baſe, in *proportion* to *their height:* a circumſtance I took the liberty of noticing to the ingenious ſtranger, *when here.* I never ſaw a barrow opened; but I was once ſo fortunate as to ſee a tumulus laid open to the bottom, the whole earth being entirely taken away. It was upon Gog-ma-Gog hills, near Cambridge, pretty cloſe to the great road, often called the Watling-ſtreet-road, leading from Colcheſter to Grand Cheſter, on the Cam. The diſcovery was, " That of ten ſkeletons, quite perfect in ſhape at the firſt diſcloſure, but, upon a ſhort expoſure to the air, mouldering into abſolute duſt,—nine were laid, ſide by ſide, with their heads full north, conſequently their faces towards the meridian ſun; the tenth with his feet pointing towards the nine, and his head towards the weſt; his face, of courſe, oppoſed to the riſing ſun." So ſingular a circumſtance, as the different poſition of one ſkeleton from the reſt, ſurpriſed me very much, and awakened my curioſity *greatly*, to know the *true reaſon:* therefore I wrote immediately to a ſenſible, ingenious Jeſuit, Pere Weſt, (then living at Ulverſtone, in Lancaſhire) confeſſing my own inability to ſolve the difficulty, and requeſting his aſſiſtance; *knowing him* to be very well informed, with reſpect to the ſepultural rights and cuſtoms of the antients. He

very politely anſwered my letter immediately, ſolving the difficulty, entirely to *my* ſatisfaction; by informing me, That the nine were Roman ſoldiers, ſlain in battle; and that the tenth was a ſoldier too, who had met with the ſame fate, but was a Chriſtian convert, who, by the poſition, was allowed *that Chriſtian diſtinction* in burial; as a teſtimony and reward of his bravery and ſervices.

THREE of the fineſt barrows, or bergs, (that were raiſed merely as *ſepultural* monuments) that I have ever ſeen, are at the village of Bartlow, near Linton in Cambridgeſhire. It is a pretty general opinion, amongſt the antiquaries, that they were meant as *three diſtinct* ſepultural-monuments, for three diſtinct chiefs, or generals, falling together in ſome bloody conflict with the natives.

A BRIG from Maryport, and another from Whitehaven, bound to Newry with coals, were obliged to put in here, for ſhelter and ſafety. It is a great happineſs, there is ſuch a refuge from ſtorms, in ſo ſtormy a ſea. It is allowed to be the beſt *dry* harbour, in the Iriſh channel; for which it is entirely indebted to nature; for, what art has attempted has been done in ſuch an injudicious manner, and, I may truly add, in ſo unſubſtantial an one too,—for *want* of the *neceſſary means*,—that the wretched pier-head

is

is near one half of it, *already*, in ruins; and the tottering remnant will ſoon be laid as low: and, if it fall inwards, inſtead of outwards, as was fortunately the caſe with the breach that has *already* happened, the entrance will be ſo entirely blocked up that no veſſel whatever will be able either to get in or out of the harbour, for a very conſiderable time. The unhappy conſequences of ſuch an obſtruction are too obvious to require noticing.

2d. A RAINY day, and very blowing; the wind S. E. which makes a great ſwell in the bay.

3d. THE whole of the laſt night was ſo very wet (as well as ſtormy) that the river was very much raiſed this morning; and brought down more ſullage than I have ever ſeen before, in that *pure* ſtream. Such quantities of ſea-weed were brought into the bay (by the furious winds and waves) as I never ſaw amaſſed together, upon any beach, in the ſhort ſpace of a day and night.

THE ſun ſhone out plentifully about ten, which invited me down to the ſandy ſhore, where I was much pleaſed with the very buſy ſcene before me; not leſs than three hundred men, women, and children, gathering up and

carting away the weed, from out of the tide-way; in order to make it into compoſt heaps. I counted twenty-five carts, buſily engaged in that uſeful employment.—Wind North.

4th. A TOLERABLY fine day; wind N. W. by N.—In walking acroſs the ſand, I ſaw a great number of cranes, buſy fiſhing amongſt the rocks. This iſland abounds, in every part, with theſe long-legged fiſhers. Virgil gives them the epithet of *Strymoniæ grues;* and one of his annotators, Doctor Martyn, I think, gives the following reaſon for it. "That the Strymon, a river of Thrace, was a ſtream that greatly abounded with graſs and other aquatic plants; and was, therefore, very much frequented by cranes."

I HAVE often wondered why Virgil has ranked thoſe birds as peſtiferous ones, to farmers; as even one of thoſe natural evils that will ever diſturb and annoy the induſtrious huſbandmen, by plundering them of the fruits of their care and labour:—

——— "*nihil improbus anſer,*
"*Strymoniæque grues, et amaris intyba fibris,*
"*Officiunt, aut umbra nocet.*"

"Yet after all theſe toils of ſwains and ſteers,
"Still riſing ills impend, and countleſs cares;

"The

" The glutton gooſe, the Thracian cranes annoy,
" Succory, and noxious ſhade, the crops deſtroy."

UNLESS the Thracian cranes were a different ſpecies of birds, to any now known, they could not injure the farmers, in any of their crops. Their mandibles are not framed for grazing, or feeding upon any kind of vegetable food; and it is an undoubted fact, that they obtain *all theirs* from the watery element: their chief, if not only, food being fiſh and frogs; therefore, unleſs the farmers had fiſh ponds within their farms for profit, made on purpoſe for breeding and feeding of fiſh, I do not ſee how the poor cranes could any ways injure them. I take it to be one of thoſe vulgar errors which will ſometimes inadvertently ſlide into the writings of the moſt cautious and judicious authors.

CRANES, or hyrns, have been long under the protection of the laws in England, and ſo they are in this iſland. Virgil ſpeaks of the geeſe, as a troubleſome bird, and pernicious to corn; meaning the wild geeſe. " They are ſtill ſo, " in flocks, ſays the learned and ingenious Mr. " Holeſworth, within the *Campania Felice*, the " country which Virgil had chiefly in his eye, " when he wrote the Georgics."—I have more than doubts of the fact. See a diſſerta-

tion upon the ſubject, in the Memoirs of Agriculture, publiſhed by Arthur Young, Eſq.

5th. WIND N. W. by N.—People very buſy every where reaping corn; yet I ſaw hay out in ſeveral cloſes, very near to this town. Nothing can mark the indolence, and egregious folly, of the inhabitants more ſtrongly than to have their hay ſtanding out, upon the fifth of September; eſpecially after a long ſeaſon of fine fair weather as ever indulgent Heaven beſtowed upon any country and people.—The herring boats returned about eleven. They report tolerable ſucceſs, in general.

6th. A VERY fine, pleaſant morning; wind N. W.—A large ſhoal of herrings was very viſible from Douglas-head, very near to the ſhore. The path, or track, they were purſuing was very diſtinguiſhable, by the different ſhade of the water, and marked out by the multitudes of gulls and other ſea-birds, ſcreaming and hovering over them. I had a moſt beautiful ſight this forenoon (out of Capt. Taubman's ſeat in the New Church) of the Perſeus frigate coming round the Point, under full ſail, and afterwards coming *to*, in the bay, full in my ſight. I fear it took away ſome of my attention from the preacher.

7th. A

7th. A VERY wet, ſtormy day.—A large ſhip from Whitby, bound to Revel, came into the bay, and ſoon afterwards came to anchor, near the buoy. The Captain came on ſhore, to get water, and purchaſe two carcaſes of beef. —Wind S. W. by S.

8th. RESEMBLING the preceding day in every reſpect; dreadful weather for the grain! and very unfavourable to invalids; eſpecially to ſuch as are troubled with coughs, or any breaſt-complaints.—Capt. Cook, in his large cutter, came into the harbour about four; bringing a large party of friends with him, from Scotland; ſix ladies and one gentleman, a member of parliament. My friend, Mr. Mc. Adam was landed out of a brig, going from Ireland to Whitehaven; his friend Mr. Allonby proceeded forward.

9th. JUST ſuch a day as the laſt; only the wind, which is ſtill S. W. by W. is not ſo boiſterous. The darkeſt September morning I ever remember; but no wonder, when the whole iſland is hid in a dark, thick fog, as it wont to be in the reign of MANNA-MAN-MACLEA, the famous necromancer: ſo very groſs a fog, that it may be felt as well as ſeen. My

breaſt, I know, feels it grievouſly oppreſſive to free reſpiration.

10th. WET and foggy; but not quite ſo dark and uncomfortable, as the preceding day. —Wind S. W.

11th. THE weather very much improved; very pleaſant, all the forenoon; the ſun ſhining out, with comfortable warmth, as well as cheering brightneſs. About one, Capt. Cook's cutter went out into the bay; and, at two, his boat took the party on board.

A SMALL ſhower came from the mountains about three, which would impede the reaping buſineſs a little. The ſun ſhone out, ſoon after the ſhower, very reſplendently; and treated us with a bright and pleaſant evening.

12th. A VERY fine morning; the wind N. W.—The boats are come in, with a moſt noble take of herrings; caught near the Head. The town is all life and buſtle, and every face you meet has chearfulneſs ſtamped upon it. Early this morning, from the Head, the bay exhibited one of the moſt pleaſing, moving ſcenes I ever ſaw.

A LITTLE after nine, left Douglas on an exploring ramble through the ſouth diſtrict, and

and to pay a viſit of reſpect to the worthy governor. Quitted the great road at the end of Balla Salley, in order to go to Derby Haven, and croſs the head of the bay, to Soder, (Salder) or Fort Iſland. I had not gone far down the bye-road, before I diſcovered three fine barrows, in a large field; placed in a triangular form. They are ſo large, and ſo perfect, that it was aſtoniſhing, to me, that I had never heard them noticed, by the *few* gentlemen of the iſland, *who* have a turn to enquiries of *that* kind. I wiſh the Daniſh profeſſor had ſeen them, as he might have thrown light upon the *triangular poſition;* but medals, and Runic characters, ſeemed to be the chief objects of his enquiries and reſearches; yet nothing can give ſurer evidence of the very conſiderable eſtabliſhed power, and ample poſſeſſions, the Danes had *once* in this iſland, than the number of bergs, or barrows, that are to be met with in ſo many different parts of it.

Soon after I had left thoſe funeral relics, I came to a noble large field, containing three conſiderable and different vegetable crops; turnips, cabbages, and Delaware broccoli; all looking very well, and under judicious management. The cabbages were then undergoing a very clean hoeing; though I ſhould have preferred one by the plough, ſooner than by the hand;

hand; for the ſpaces betwixt the rows were more than ſufficiently large to admit the plough to give an effectual ſtirring to the ſoil, as well as a cleanſing from the weeds. They will be a noble crop, and very valuable winter ſuſtenance, for his cattle. The only defect I could ſee in Mr. Wynn's (the farmer) management; was the plants being too cloſe in the rows; but that is a defect eaſily cured, by an early, *alternate* drawing of the cabbages.

THE Delaware cole ſeems to be a ſtrong, hardy ſpecies. It takes its name, I believe, from growing *ſpontaneouſly* upon the banks of that noble river; in the ſame manner as the ſea cole ſprouts upon many of the pebbly ſhores in England.

I WAS much pleaſed with Mr. Wynn's having introduced the ſenſible practice of mowing his barley crops; a practice that ought to be *more peculiarly* adopted, in this iſland, than almoſt any where elſe; as there is ſuch an *abſolute* ſcarcity of hands, during the yearly interference of the ſea with the land-harveſt; occaſioning great quantities of grain not only to be damaged, but even loſt, *by ſhake*. Mr. Wynn is lately removed here, from Wales, to farm a conſiderable part of the Derby-head eſtate, where he reſides.

FROM thence I paſſed over a firm, rattling ſand,

ſand, to a kind of farm houſe, near the iſland; and from thence, over a *mound* wall of four yards thick, made to prevent the ſea from flowing through that narrow channel, into the haven, and which makes a road of occupation too, into the circular iſland. The firſt object I noticed was the old chapel, in which (tradition ſays) the ancient biſhops were firſt introduced, to receive their appointment, and read themſelves into the united biſhopric. Though no great friend to traditional information, yet I cannot help giving ſome heed to the above relation; for the ſmall chapel has more of the ancient rude ſtyle of building, than any edifice I have ſeen, within Mona's bounds, and the inſide furniture gives me a ſtronger credence,—conſiſting of an altar, piled up with rude ſtones, in the form of a table; and in the right hand corner, near to the ancient altar, a block of ſtone, piled up in the ſame rude ſtyle, with four ſteps of advance, exactly reſembling a common horſe-block. I, therefore, believe it was either meant for that purpoſe; or the place for the chief or firſt magiſtrate of the iſland, to receive his *religious* appointment, or inauguration. *(f)*

I MADE

(f) MR. CAMDEN, in his Britiſh Iſles, ſaith, "by Caſtletown, in the Iſle of Man, there is a little iſland, wherein

I MADE a circuit round the little iſland, as cloſe in amongſt the rocks, as I could ſcramble. Such horrid, black-looking ones, I never beheld. Every point of them ſeems ſo armed with danger, as even to alarm the imagination of any one that approaches near them, though ſafely *moving* upon *terra firma*. They have proved fatal to numbers; whoſe mangled bodies had been interred at the eaſt end of the old chapel; as a great number of ſmall head-ſtones will inform thoſe that viſit that romantic ſpot, That near thereto are laid to reſt, ſome unfortunate mariners. There is one upright grave ſtone, handſomely cut; denoting the

wherein Pope Gregory the 4th [*meant the 14th It believ*] inſtituted a ſee; the Biſhop whereof was named *Sodorenſis*; and had, in times paſt, juriſdiction over all the iſlands Weſt, Iriſh, or Hebrides; but exerciſeth it now only upon that iſland; and is himſelf under the Archbiſhop of York."—N. B. There is no other iſland, either great or ſmall, any where *near* to Caſtletown. Indeed there is no other *now* known, belonging or appendant to Mona, ſave the Calf and Peel Iſland.

THOUGH the above relation, of Mr. Cambden's, is confirmed by the teſtimony and authorities of ſeveral other reputable authors, yet it is violently oppoſed by a pepper-hot Welſh Squire, (of the true Glendower-breed) in his manuſcript hiſtory of Mona; which, for its ſingularity, will be frequently introduced in the ſequel of this JOURNAL.

death,

death, by ſhipwreck on thoſe dread rocks, of one HENRY PEARSON, and his ſon THOMAS, mariners, of Whitehaven, in the year 1782.—Two, or three, unfortunate mariners, from Liverpool, have ſhared the like melancholy fate, ſince that time.

THE round fort ſtands at the oppoſite ſide of the iſland from the chapel, cloſe to the channel of entrance into the haven. By ſtriding the tower, I took the circumference to be about a hundred yards. I meaſured the walls, and found them to be nine feet thick. There is a flight of ſteps that leads to a circular walk, ſix feet broad; with a parapet wall (of three feet high) above it. There were two habitations within the tower; one of them was inhabited but a few years ago; but they are both *now* deſerted, and tumbling into ruins. Over the door of entrance, was the Derby arms engraved in ſtone: but much mutilated by time, or ſome accidental injury. The top of the coronet was pretty diſtinct, as was the head of the eagle; a date under it, 1667, which I took to be eighty ſeven, but it might be 67, as only the lower part of the third figure was diſtinguiſhable.

THE horrid, black rocks were inhabited by vaſt numbers of ſea-birds. I did not ſee a plant

plant upon the iſland, ſave ſweet graſs, except the ſea or beach-poppy.

RETURNING to my chaiſe, I proceeded immediately to Caſtletown, and from thence to Big-meadow, the ſummer retreat of the Governor, who received me with great politeneſs and affability.

IN the afternoon, I went a circuit through the moſt ſouthernly part of the iſland, by Port-le-Murry, (a ſmall village) where there is a ſmall ſnug bay, for the ſhelter of the fiſhing-craft. I was induced to believe, that very near that place I ſhould meet with the foundation of an old caſtle, of much greater antiquity than Caſtle Ruſhen; but my expectations were diſappointed, teaching me, again, what little reliance is to be had upon traditional hiſtory, or legendary tales. I met with the tottering remains of a ſmall Romiſh chapel, where a prieſt uſed to come formerly from Ireland, to perform duty occaſionally, to the very few that ſtill adhered to the ancient *orthodox* faith.

I THEN proceeded to Kirk Chriſt-Ruſhen; ſaw in my way, two perpendicular ſtones, about twelve feet high, and better than three feet broad, placed at a very conſiderable diſtance from each other, called "the giants coiting ſtones;" about which many ſtrange, legendary tales are told.

GOING

GOING from thence to Kirk Arbory, I paſſed by a lead work, newly opened by the friary, *reputed* an ancient *religious* building; and, from the very choice land around it, I have hardly a doubt about it; though there are *ſcarce any* remains of ancient buildings.

THE whole of this afternoon's excurſion was through a very fertile country, very decently cultivated; nothing wanted, but a little wood, to make it a *moſt delightful* country; yielding vaſt plenty of grain, all reaped, or ready to reap; yet ſaw great quantities of hay, carting home, or ſtanding out—*ſtill*,—in cock, within the warmeſt, forwardeſt diſtrict of the whole iſland.—Unaccountable folly and obſtinacy!

13th. STAYING all night at Caſtletown, I fully intended going by Fox-dale lead-mines, from thence by Balla Moor, to the Peel road; ſo home: but finding the wind changed to the S. W. by S. and judging, from other ſigns, that very heavy rain would come on, at the turn of the tide, out of compaſſion to the driver and horſes, I altered my intention; ordered the driver to turn about, and make the beſt of his way home. It was timed very nicely; for in five minutes after I got to my lodgings, very heavy

heavy ſtorms of rain and wind came on, and continued the whole of the afternoon and evening.

14th. A VERY bright, pleaſant morning; the wind Weſt; the mountains remarkably clear, promiſing a charming harveſt day. St. Mary's Rock was ſo entirely covered with gulls, and other kinds of ſea-birds, that all the old fiſhermen were very confident that the great body of fiſh muſt be very near the Head. The moment I had finiſhed my breakfaſt, I made up to the Head, to ſee if they were perceptible from thence. They were at too great a diſtance to be *diſtinctly* ſeen, from that lofty eminence. The morning being ſo exceedingly pleaſant, a walk of two hours, along the lofty beach, made up for the diſappointment; amuſing myſelf, all the time, with obſerving five *fine* brigs coming up from the weſtward, and ſeeing three of them paſs directly under me, cloſe in with the noble, bold ſhore. On my return, obſerved near a dozen women, very buſy, reaping oats and barley; very dead ripe. A ſharp ſhower came on at three, which would put an end to that very neceſſary work, for the day. It continued ſhowery all the evening.

15th. SHOWERS

15th. Showers fell frequently during the night, which have cauſed ſuch a dampneſs and chilly feel in the atmoſphere, as to make a fire, for the firſt time, a very neceſſary, as well as a very comfortable, companion.

A very poor fiſhing, upon the whole; though ſome boats have had very good ſucceſs.

The evening was ſo very ſtormy, that many returned back into the harbour, without ever ſhooting their nets. The harbour is filled chuck full, with boats, ſmacks, and wherries; and the whole bay is entirely covered with the ſame. It is ſuppoſed the whole number cannot be leſs than ſix hundred. The pier-head is amazingly crowded with people, to behold the beautiful, moving picture in the bay. Had the day been warm, and pleaſant, I ſhould certainly have ſpent the greateſt part of it there, or on the Head; but a bitter cold and pelting ſtorm ſent me home to a new, but cheering acquaintance; one whoſe cloſe alliance I ſhall ſeek, as long as I ſtay in this humid climate.

The Liverpool paſſage-boat went out about ſeven, with twenty-four paſſengers on board. The George ſloop, at the ſame time, and for the ſame place, with ſeveral more on board of her. The herring boats began to move about the ſame time, and they were all out, ſoon after eight.

16th. The laſt night proved a noble fiſhing night. All the boats, ſome few that were *bewitched* excepted, have returned quite full of fiſh. About forty maiſe was the common, or medium, quantity per boat. Some conſiderably exceeded that quantity. The *generally* received calculation was, That upwards of four thouſand pounds worth of herrings were ſold within the bay and harbour, *this* morning.

The unloading of the boats, and carrying the fiſh from thence to the reſpective herring-houſes, where they are thrown down under large ſheds, built for that purpoſe, are done by women. There are two men ready to ſhovel them up in *layers*, as they come in, and throw a proper quantity of ſalt over every layer. In that ſituation, they remain for ſeveral days, till it is *judged* they have imbibed a ſufficient quantity of it, for curing, and alſo preſerving them for exportation. The next operation is waſhing them, which is done in large open baſkets, placed within very large tubs of water, where the buckets are briſkly worked about, till the fiſh are thoroughly cleanſed from the looſe ſalt and ſlime that are adhering to them.

The waſhing is very hard work; requiring much ſtrength; therefore allotted to the men to perform. The women, however, take the baſkets from the men, and carry them into the drying

drying houſes, where they throw them down in heaps, there to drain awhile. The next procedure is called ſpitting the fiſh. A vaſt quantity of *ſplit* haſel-ſticks (well dried and hardened by fire) is ready prepared for the purpoſe. The herrings are faſtened, or ſtrung, (if no incongruity in the expreſſion) upon thoſe ſticks, by running them through their gills. The next operation is putting them up, in thoſe large drying houſes, which are fitted up with proper framings (like to ſo many *ſtout upright* ladders) from the bottom to the top of the building: Thoſe framings being fixed at ſuch a diſtance from each other, that a man may eaſily aſcend betwixt them, in order to convey thoſe ſpits, to the *higheſt* ranges; which they fill the firſt; and ſo keep deſcending, till the whole of that partition is filled to near the bottom. The ſticks are handed up (when paſt eaſy reach from the bottom) from one perſon to another, ſtanding acroſs the opening, with one foot on each ſide; and, in the ſame method, they proceed till the whole houſe is filled.

WOOD-FIRES are then lighted up, to dry, harden, and ſmoke them ſufficiently. When that is done, they are taken down, in the ſame manner they were placed up; then taken from

the ſticks, and put down *very cloſe*, into large caſks; which finiſhes the buſineſs of curing.

EVERY operation is gone through, in a very quick, ready manner, and with wonderful adroitneſs, by *all* employed.

N. B. THE drying-houſes are *very* lofty buildings; from twenty to thirty yards long, and upwards; with proportionable width. The cleanſings of waſhing-tubs are eſteemed a very firſt-rate manure, for land; ſo are the ſweepings of every out-houſe, or room, where any part of the buſineſs is carried on. It is too valuable an article, to be obtained from the herring merchants; who wiſh to diſtinguiſh *their* grounds with it, by a verdure uncommonly rich, and uncommonly laſting.

DOUGLAS now exhibits a kind of daily fair and market. The butchers ſlaughter beef and mutton, every day; huckſters ſtalls are ſeen in abundance; hawkers and pedlars ſwarming, in the place; to entice the fiſhermen and their wives, to *buy bargains*.

I TOOK a walk up to the Head, about eleven; the whole hill ſide was covered with nets, ſpread out to dry, and alſo to be mended. The dog-fiſh had made terrible havock, the night before. Some of the men were induſtriouſly employed in repairing the monſtrous breaches, made by that *horned*, voracious ſpecies of the ſhark-tribe:

ſhark-tribe: others were laid faſt aſleep, upon the *cold* ground, reſting their *weary* limbs. Some few were pulling dry ling, by them called heather, to exorciſe their boats with, or burn the witches out of them.

THEIR mode of doing it, is as follows: they ſet fire to a part of the heather, in the centre of the boat; then make wiſps of the reſt, and light them; one going to the head, another to the ſtern, others along the ſides, ſo that every part may be touched by the flame. This is a fact well known to *all* here; and would be atteſted, by hundreds, nay thouſands. Such is the *ſtill* wonderful ignorance and ſuperſtition of the lower ranks, in this iſland. But there are ſyrens in it, of a different kind, far more dangerous, far more to be guarded againſt by the honeſt, ſimple ſwains of the mountains, than the fairy-elves;—the ſyren nymphs, that inhabit the *Sand-ſide*.

17th. I LEFT my bed juſt ——

"When the *ſtill* morn went forth with ſandals grey,"

and was up at Douglas Head, before ſix:—in time to behold a moſt glorious ſight; the ſun riſing from out of the briny waves, and darting his orient, ſparkling beams, full upon the

boſom of Black-Coomb; ſoon illumining the whole of that noble mountain, as well as the lofty tops of many more, to the northward of it. The general illumination deſcending, gave me by far the moſt diſtinct view of all the oppoſite coaſt that I have ever been preſented with, ſince I came to the iſland. I was ſo pleaſed with the magnificent, luminous picture before me, that it was ſome time before I adverted to the main object, that had brought me up, *ſo early*, to that eminence; *which was to ſee the grand fleet of herring boats, upon their ſtation.* On turning my gaze upon the watery element, I inſtantly, and very diſtinctly, ſaw them; ranged in a kind of line, of near four miles in length. They had juſt finiſhed (or nearly ſo) their fiſhing: and were preparing for their return; which very ſoon took place; and then the ſhining watery plain before me was beautifully ſtudded with them; appearing, through the *oblique* rays of the ſun, like ſo many black ſpots, or rather ſhadows, in motion.

After amuſing myſelf, for ſome time, with a ſcene ſo novel, and ſo very pleaſing, I left the Head, in order to get down to the entrance of the harbour, before they could arrive there. It was a joyous ſight, when they all cluſtered about the harbour mouth, to ſee every boat (for all had been ſucceſsful) filled with ſuch happy,

happy, chearful faces. When they got into the harbour, the moſt buſy ſcene commenced that I was ever an eye-witneſs to, in any country. If the computation of yeſterday's take, at four thouſand pounds value, was right, that of this day's may fairly ſtand, at ſix, and upwards; and I verily believe *both* are under the mark.

About ten, I left the buſtling crowd below, and mounted the hill again, in order to attend a gentleman and lady, from near Warrington, who had never been there. They were quite delighted, with the various, and very extenſive views from thence, the purity of the air, and looking down upon the uncommon buſtle and hurry, both in the bay and harbour. It was a very pleaſing circumſtance to me, to obſerve that the gentleman (who came ſuch an invalid to Douglas, that he could not lately have walked a quarter of the way, upon *level* ground; ſee page 152) was able to aſcend that height, without difficulty; and walk there a very conſiderable time without being tired, or finding any inconveniency from ſuch a wonderful exertion. It is very a ſtrong inſtance, in point, of the ſalutary quality of Mona's air, in *hectic*, or other *irregular* feveriſh complaints. If others, labouring under the like ailments have not found equal benefit, per-

haps, they ought to blame themſelves. Such as prefer the deluſive and deſtructive pleaſures, as they are ſtyled, of intemperance, or even daily conviviality, to the reſtoration of decayed health, muſt be contented to leave the iſland, in the ſame ſituation they entered it; perhaps in a worſe.

I HAVE been witneſs to two ſpeedy and pleaſing inſtances of recovery, from thoſe flattering, deluſive complaints, indiſcriminately called conſumptions;—perhaps equal to any that can be recorded of the Briſtol-fount.

IN our return, noticed what large ſpatches of ground (on every ſide of the town) were blackened with the fiſhermens nets; and what multitudes of buſy people were in motion every where; indeed that muſt be the caſe, ſuppoſing the number of boats to be five hundred, which is the general eſtimate, every boat furniſhed with ſeven men, at leaſt; (and to *every* man a net of forty-eight yards long) together with thoſe belonging to the ſmacks, and other craft lying here, for the purpoſe of purchaſing fiſh; with the vaſt numbers employed too, chiefly women and ſtrong girls, in other branches; the whole number of people, buſily engaged *this* day, in, and about, *that* buſineſs, may be fairly computed at five thouſand; and the nets employed in the preſent fiſhery, at

five

five and thirty hundred. "The buſy hum of men," as Milton ſtyles it, when heard from below, was wonderful, and highly pleaſing to the ear.

18th. A BLOWING, ſhowery morning, which impeded the fiſhing-buſineſs very much, very few of the boats venturing out; thoſe that had reſolution enough were pretty ſucceſsful. The whole day very uncomfortable and ſhowery, till evening, when a brightneſs came on, giving ſome hopes of an amendment in the weather.

19th. As diſagreeable a morning as the the laſt. Some of the boats ventured out laſt night; but the larger number kept within the harbour, whether from fear of blowing weather, or whether from a reſolution of ſpending more of their extraordinary earnings, in indolence and riotous living, before they ſet out again to work, is a matter of doubt to me: I incline to the latter ſuppoſition.—The wind full north.

20th. WIND the ſame as yeſterday, and the morning as like to the laſt, as one pea to another. Three light brigs, and a ſloop from Ireland, bound to their own ports of Workington and Maryport, after being off the Heads

Heads at Whitehaven, were driven back by a furious north wind, and were happy to get in here laſt night, for ſhelter from a terrible gale. Another brig was driven back, in like manner, into this bay, and will alſo ſecure herſelf in the harbour, as ſoon as the tide ſerves. What a happy thing it is, that there is ſuch a ſure ſhelter from ſtorms: It ſhews the very great conſequence of ſuch a port to the public; it is therefore (certainly) *well deſerving* of public care and attention. A very nice ſloop came into the bay this evening. She had been up in the Highlands, to get a cargo of herrings; but was diſappointed, therefore came here, in hopes of procuring one.

21ſt. A FAIR and pleaſant morning invited me up to the hill of health, at a very early hour, and there I amuſed myſelf, for ſome time, with obſerving three fine coal brigs, under ſail for Ireland, going under a moderate gale, and gliding over a ſurface as ſmooth as glaſs. When I got back as far as the bridge, I found I had more than an hour to ſpare, before my breakfaſt would be ready for me; and knowing that a fair and fine day would *now* become very precarious, in this clime, and at this ſtormy ſeaſon, I was determined to make the moſt of the preſent; prolonging

longing my morning's exercise, by taking my favourite round through the vale; from the Nunnery to Kirk Bradden, and so down the Peele road, home.

When I had passed the Nunnery a very little way, my eyes were presented with a scene, strikingly different from what I had been contemplating with so much delight before;—*a still, peaceable sea, without even a curl upon its surface;* for here they met a *swift gliding* stream, *hasting* to pay its daily tribute below.

" *Labitur, et labetur, in omne volubilis ævum.*"

" Ceaseless it flows, and will, for ever, flow."

The contrast immediately brought to my recollection a very fine passage, full of the sublime, in that noble poem, " The Pleasures of the Imagination:"

" Who that, from Alpine heights, his lab'ring eye
" Shoots round the wide horizon, to survey
" Where Nile, or Ganges, rolls his wasteful flood,
" Through empires vast, and continents of sand;
" *Will turn* his gaze, to mark the windings
" Of a *scanty* rill, that murmurs at his feet?"

The observation is great, is noble, is just; yet, I must confess, that I did not much regret having

having made a *temporary* exchange of the auguſt and wonderful, for the far more ſimple and common appearances of nature; for the imagination cannot be *always* upon the ſtretch, contemplating the vaſt, ſtupendous works of creation; but requires, every now and then, ſome lowerings from its arduous ſoarings, to give it a *temporary* relaxation; as neceſſary and refreſhing to the mind, as quietude to the body, after continued hard labour, or ſtrong exerciſe.

I FOUND a very great want, in my walk up to the church; the ſweet melody of the linnet, the lark, and the thruſh,——in the language of the poet, every grove was mute;—not a bird to be ſeen, or heard, ſave the pert red-breaſt; with his humble twitterings, proclaiming ſtern winter's approach; that chilly ſeaſon, which inſpires his *little* heart, with boldneſs, making him gladly ſeek kind amity with man. This is the ſeaſon when moſt of the lovely, feathered tribe are undergoing a painful, but neceſſary, change; the caſting off their old and tattered robings, for to receive new ones from their kind benefactreſs; ſuch as are far better adapted to protect their tender little frames, from the chilling blaſts, and nipping froſts, of hoary winter. For nature is ever

good

good and gracious, and kindly provident in all her ways.

After breakfaſt, took a ſecond walk to the Head, by invitation from the gentleman and lady, who had been my agreeable companions, upon a former ſtroll to that place. In our way up, we were much amuſed with obſerving the infinite numbers of gulls, that were fluttering upon the water, (all round the entrance of the haarbour) or ſitting upon the rocks, all the way to the Point; on obſerving St. Mary's rock, too, to be *entirely* covered with ſmall gulls, (though ſtrangers) we *dared* to preſage that the great ſhoal of herrings was *ſtill* either in the bay, or very near to it. Before one, the ſun ſhining very bright, the line of fiſh was very diſcernable, from the high beach, at the head of the bay, extending in a kind of moving ridge, quite acroſs the mouth or ſpan of the bay.——Wind N. W.

22d. A fine morning, till near eight; when, the wind ſhifting inſtantaneoully, from N. W. to S. W. rain came on almoſt immediately too; and continued to fall very heavily till about one. The laſt night (perhaps) the beſt fiſhing night, that has been known at Douglas, for ſome years.—Almoſt every boat was quite full of fiſh; many had above ſixty

maiſe

maiſe in them; ſome very near ſeventy. A maiſe is five hundred fiſh, at ſix ſcore to the hundred; beſides a herring allowed at every quarter of a hundred.

THE evening turning out very fine, the herring boats went to their work, at the entrance of the bay, except twenty, whoſe crews were either too lazy, or too intoxicated with ſpirits, to go out. It was a noble ſight from the pier-head, to ſee them all ranged in order, and ſhooting their nets.

23d. FIFTEEN, or ſixteen, boats got into harbour, by the early morning-tide: they were not out above eight hours, and yet returned full of fiſh. They all came in, as ſoon as the day-tide ſerved; all moſt ſucceſsful in the laſt night's work.

24th. A BETTER fiſhing night than the laſt; a better ſeldom known here.—The morning being very fine; took my firſt walk, as uſual; the wind then S. S. E.; but ſoon ſhifting a point nearer to the South, a very thick fog came on; yet no rain.

25th. THOUGH ſuch very great encouragement to the fiſhermen, to be very active and induſtrious

induſtrious for the remainder of the ſeaſon; yet all, except a very few, returned into the harbour, without ſhooting their nets. Thoſe that had ſpirit and reſolution, to continue at their ſtation, came in this morning, nobly loaded. One had conſiderably above fifty maiſe. The Ramſey and Laxey fiſhermen had very good ſucceſs too, whilſt the looby louts, belonging this port, were ſpending their earnings, in the moſt ſhameful intemperance.

THERE was another burning of the witches, out of an unſucceſsful boat, (laſt night) off Bank's How. The flames were very viſible, to the top of the bay. Thoſe witches, that are ſo very miſchievous, and play ſo many wayward tricks with poor fiſhermen, are undoubtedly deſcended from the famous Mananan Maclear, who (by necromancy and arts magic) long kept this iſland in perpetual miſts; and was ſo ſkilled in numbers, too, (eſpecially in multiplication) that he could, at any time, make one man appear as an hundred. However, St. Patrick (the generous, tutelary ſaint and guardian of Ireland) put him to route, and baniſhed him from the iſland. But ſtill there are, in this fairy-land,

" Strange ſtories told, of many a feat;
" How Fairy Mab the junkets ate:
" Then how the drudging goblin ſwet,

" To

" To earn his cream-bowl, duly ſet;
" When, in one night, ere glimpſe of morn,
" His ſhadowy flail hath threſh'd the corn
" That ten day-lab'rers could not end;—
" Then lies him down, the lubber fiend;
" And, ſtretch'd out all the chimney's length,
" Baſks, at the fire, his hairy ſtrength;
" Then, crop-full, out of door he flings,
" Ere the firſt cock his mattin rings." (g)

I HAD often admired, with a kind of wonder, thoſe green rings, ſo obſervable upon many dry heaths and commons, in various parts of England, called, by the common people, FAIRY-RINGS; and one day determined, if poſſible, to find out the reaſon why they were generally ſeen, in that circular form, and why, too, the graſs growing upon them ſhould be ſo diſtinguiſhable from that upon the ſurrounding turf, by a richer, or deeper, tinge of green. I cut up ſeveral ſods, as deep as the fine mould reached, by which means I found ſeveral brown grubs, ſome moving and ſome in a ſtate of quietude; but the greateſt number of them in motion, with their heads in the ſelf ſame direction, as if they were purſuing each other. I

(g) At every baking, and every churning, a bit of dough, and a bit of butter, is ſtuck upon the wall, *for the little folks*. This cuſtom ſtill prevails very much amongſt the country folks; eſpecially up in the mountains.

found

found the ſoil under the rings, to be far better pulveriſed than that under the ſurrounding heath; where there were no inſects viſible; and the ſtate of the ſoil will eaſily account for the deeper tinge of green, in the graſs growing upon them; but why thoſe inſects ſhould ſo invariably work and move in a *circular form*, is above my comprehenſion; therefore will freely leave the ſtaunch-believers in fairy tales, in full and peaceable poſſeſſion of their *circular* property.

26th. I BELIEVE only two boats, from this port, went to the fiſhing-ground the laſt night; for I have only ſeen two come in this morning, and thoſe were finely filled.—It is computed that the abominable indolence of the fiſhermen, for two nights paſt, has been a loſs, to the public, of *more than four thouſand pounds*; beſides ſuch an irreparable one, to themſelves and their families; families that, moſt probably, will be involved in penury and complicated diſtreſs, long before another ſea-harveſt *can* commence. But intoxication is their *darling* paſſion, and they will ſacrifice every ſerious duty, every tender claim upon them, (as huſbands and fathers) to the free indulgence of it.

Such dirty ſtreets were ſurely never ſeen in

any town, as in *this* of Douglas, at *this* very time. I remember reading in the Old Teſtament, reſpecting the inhabitants of Judea, that, at a certain period in their hiſtory, every man did what was right in his *own* eyes; but the ſenſible author very properly obſerves (by way of apology for ſuch a ſtate of anarchy and confuſion) that "there was *then* no King in Iſrael;"—that is, *no active* magiſtrate, or ruler, to enforce proper, decent obedience to the laws of the land. Statutes, ordinances, proclamations, rules, or regulations of police, are mere *dead* letters, if not properly enforced, and the *true* ſpirit of them unremittingly infuſed through examples, into the general maſs of the people. I ſhould not have believed (if I had not been informed from the moſt reſpectable authority) that there was a magiſtrate reſident in this town, who is armed with ſufficient powers to *reſtrain* the inhabitants from letting their hogs ſtray *at large*, within all the ſtreets and roads about the place, to the great annoyance of *every* one that has occaſion to paſs through them; and that he has a power of impoſing a fine upon offenders too, as a coercive operation to a ſenſible, excellent ordinance: yet no town was ever ſo tormented with a nuiſance of that filthy, unſightly kind, as the town of Douglas;—it being impoſſible to

paſs

paſs through any one ſtreet, or alley, without being offended with the naſtineſs of thoſe four legged brutes, as well as the more horrid, and more offenſive, of *two* legged ones. The ſame reſpectable authority teaches me to believe, That the ſame magiſtrate is inveſted with due powers, to compel the inhabitants, not only to cleanſe the ſtreets *regularly*, but alſo immediately *take away* the ſweepings; which are now very frequently left in ſuch large heaps, that people, in dark nights, are ſubject to get midleg deep into them; to the great ſhame and diſgrace of the town and its inhabitants.

If my information be well founded, it is plain that ſupineneſs is not confined to the lower ranks alone, but is an *inſular* failing, from which people *in authority* are not exempt, by a ſuperior education, and ſuperior knowledge of the laws.

Whilst upon a viſit at the Nunnery, this morning, the Deemſter *(h)* came in there. I obſerved much ſolemnity about him, but no ſymptoms of an *enlightened* underſtanding; yet he may be a Solomon for aught I know; eſpecially as very many, who muſt know him pretty well, have taken it into their heads that he is certainly *a Jew*; though not of the fable

(h) The firſt judicial magiſtrate in the iſland,

caſt. He came in a carriage; which is certainly one of the firſt-rate antiquities; and the greateſt curioſity, of its kind, in the whole iſland. It is certain too, that it muſt be a very ſalutary vehicle to travel in, as it admits a *current of freſh air* at every joining of the woodwork.

I was tempted to go laſt night to the play, in order to ſee, and hear, ſome gentlemen of the place, upon the ſtage; *kindly* acting, for the benefit of a Mrs. *Henry*.—There was a very extraordinary bill of fare given out, for the entertainment of the night: three pieces; Love-a-la-mode; Lethe; and the Citizen: beſides occaſional prologues, ſpoutings, diſſertations, readings, rantings, ſingings, &c. &c. &c. If it had not been for conſiderable merit, in the pleaſing Mrs. Blanchard, Captain Tenniſon, and Mr. Bibby, the patience of many would have been exhauſted, *long before* the concluſion of the firſt piece; for, to ſpeak of the *whole* truly, and in *general* terms, "it was "acting without ſtage-abilities, and ſinging without voices:" yet there was *one*, it was very plain, that plumed himſelf very highly upon his theatrical merit:—but did he poſſeſs the various, noble powers, with the ſame fine feelings too, of a *Garrick*,—ſuch feelings, as irreſiſtibly rivetted thoſe of the audience to his voice

voice and geſtures, and allowed him to lead them, moſt willing captives, through the whole performance, how long ſoever it was;—yet an *unfortunate monotony* of voice would effectually damn them all, even the *ſignificant* ſtrut and *graceful* folding of the arms, a monotony that *muſt* induce drowſineſs, as well as laſſitude, upon the audience; for when (after *long* pauſe)

"His *ſtarch, forc'd* words in one dull tenor creep,
"All, all, are threaten'd, *not in vain*, with ſleep."

THE arrangement of the pieces was *certainly injudicious*; for Lethe *ſhould have cloſed* the tedious, medley buſineſs; in hopes it might have had its proper, *oblivious* effect; in making all forget what they had ſeen with their eyes, and heard with their ears, during the long performance of *five* hours.

27th. A VERY damp, foggy morning, ſucceeded by a very wet day till one, when the ſun began to ſhew his cheering face, making the remainder of the day pleaſant and comfortable. The arrival of a fine new ſhip, from London, finely tricked out, and *ſo gaily* painted and gilded as to emulate a city pleaſure-barge, brought vaſt numbers to the pier-head,

to gaze at the *wonderous* ſight. She belongs to Mr. Robert Heywood, of this place, and is called the ELIZA, out of a proper compliment to a beautiful young wife. She is ſhortly to go up the Straights, loaded with his own herrings. —Wind S. W. by W.

28th. THE whole of laſt night was very wet and ſtormy. The fall of rain muſt have been uncommonly heavy, up in the mountains; for the river was very turbid, and much diſcoloured this morning. According to the language of our poet, this has been a raw and guſty day. Towards night, the windy-blowing abated very much; the ſun ſhone out very pleaſantly, (juſt before his ſetting) and the *troubled* ſea ſunk gradually into a calm: yet the fiſhermen would not move to their favourite employment; their pockets being ſtill well lined; though undergoing a daily draining, from the keepers of dram-ſhops, and the ladies of the Sand-ſide; who are very adroit (if fame ſpeak truth) at pocket picking. Either with one ſet or the other, they ſpend the *whole round* of hours, in the moſt horrid ſenſuality; all holding the ſame opinion, as the miles Luculli,

——— "*Ibit,*

"*Ibit eó, quò vis, qui zonam perdidit, inquit.*"

"Let thoſe brave dangers, that have ne'er a groat."

29th. THIS

29th. This morning may be well coupled with the laſt, for bluſtering; but the ſun ſhines out with tolerable brightneſs, ſo that, I truſt, the poor laborious females will get a good deal of the ſhattered, entangled grain cut; and ſet up pretty dry too. If any diſpatch be made in ſuch *neceſſary* work, it muſt be *entirely* through the *induſtry of the women*; for not one of the *lazy* fiſhermen will go to their aſſiſtance, though the grain is in a periſhing ſtate; and they have *no one thing to do*, but to drink, and doze out the day.

Two fine, large brigs are come into the road, to take ſhelter from the preſent blowing weather.

30th. The laſt night was very blowing; but quite fair. Two very fortunate circumſtances, for the grain that is cut down; and will afford an opportunity, to the farmers, of getting large quantities ſafely ſtored, before night.

Dined with my near neighbours, Capt. Forbes and his lady, where I met Mr. Kid, and his lady, who is a native of this town. We were entertained in a moſt hoſpitable and agreeable manner.

Great quantities both of barley and oats have been carted through the ſtreets, during

the course of the day, and in very dry order. It is a very comfortable circumstance, to the owners of the grain, as the evening wears an unfavourable aspect, such as portends storms. There has been an uncommon drop too in the barometers, during the space of a few hours; a stormy night may therefore be expected.

DOUGLAS, *October* 1ſt, 1789.

THE whole of laſt night has been one of the moſt guſty, ſtormy nights that I have known, at leaſt noticed, for ſeveral years paſt. The morning is equally bad, if not worſe. The firſt news I heard, this morning, were doleful news. That the two brigs (lying cloſe by the buoy) had been driven from their moorings, and that one was unfortunately driven upon the ſharp, rugged rocks, at the north-ſide of the bay, where ſhe now remains a miſerable wreck, and a moſt melancholy ſpectacle. The captain and crew are fortunately ſaved; but one man is terribly bruiſed, by being daſhed againſt a ſharp-pointed rock, as he was making his eſcape from the veſſel. The other brig was driven out to ſea, and what has become of her, God only knows. The former, called the Minerva, came from Liverpool, and was bound for an American port, loaden with bale goods, hardware, earthen-ware, and ſalt; the other

other came from Cheſter, with coals, bound to Ireland. This has proved one of the moſt ſtormy, wet, and diſmal days I *ever* can remember, in any ſeaſon, or in any country.—Wind S. W.

2d. Wind W.—A very blowing morning; but quite fair. Poor Mr. Pugmore paid the laſt debt to nature, about the hour of ten, laſt night; being cut down like a flower of the field, in the twenty-ſixth year of his age. He came to the iſland, in ſearch of health; but ſought it here in vain.

"Death's ſubtle ſeed within,
"(Sly, treacherous miner) working in the dark,
"Smil'd at the well-concerted ſcheme, and beckon'd
"The worm, to riot on a roſe, late red,
"But faded ere it fell."

An eaſy, complying, ſweet temper is a great bleſſing, when well guarded by prudence, and properly fortified by reſolution; but it *may be* a *great misfortune*, to a young man.

I walked up the ſand as far as the wreck, before breakfaſt. Some part of her bottom is beaten out. She ſtruck three or four times, in driving over St. Mary's rock, immediately after ſhe had parted with her anchor. Had ſhe remained there, but a very ſhort time, every one

one on board muſt, inevitably, have periſhed. Moſt of the goods are got out, but very much damaged, eſpecially the hardware articles. Not the leaſt account has yet been heard of the other veſſel.

HAD the entrance into the harbour been *ſuch* as it *might* be, and *ought* to be, on account of its *general* utility, the unfortunate veſſels could very eaſily have got ſafe within, after the ſtorm began; and the dire miſchance, which we feelingly know and lament, would have been prevented. The captains, certainly, were very highly culpable, for not going into the harbour for ſafety; as they had *three* opportunities of doing ſo, from the time of their arrival, to the commencement of the tremendous ſtorm. Why they did not, no one can poſſibly divine, unleſs from a motive of the moſt wretched penurioufneſs, a ſaving of the harbour dues; a very poor reaſon, a moſt pitiably folly, for hazarding ſo many lives, and ſo much valuable property. The harbour dues are very moderate at this port; they ought to be as low, *every where*, as the nature of circumſtances will admit; for as long as the world laſts, there will be *many* of thoſe *miſerable-minded* wretches, that will run any hazards to ſave a groat.

3d. A MOST dreadful wet and ſtormy day, from

from light to dark; the wind at N. W.—The remains of poor Mr. Pugmore were carried from his late lodgings, to Kirk Onchon, to be interred in a moſt ſtormy church-yard. A great many gentlemen attended the funeral, to pay their laſt reſpects to a poor young gentleman, a ſtranger in their iſland, though obliged to encounter (the whole way) the moſt dreadful, pelting ſtorms of hail and rain that can be imagined.

The burial-ſervice *ſhould have been read*, by the miniſter of the place; but I am certain, if the great Apoſtle to the Gentiles had been there, he would have diſclaimed having *any concern* in the burial-ſervice, that was *galloped* over, *as ſuch*, upon that *melancholy* occaſion: and good King David muſt have been in high wrath, with the horrid mutilation of two ſuch *noble* pſalms, as make a part of that *noble* ſervice. *Moſes*, the clerk, has a ſtrong, clear voice; and would have made ſomething of it, as Sterne ſays; but his maſter mumbled it over, in *ſhameful* haſte, to the tune of titup-a-titup-a-tee.

4th. A dreadful wet and ſtormy morning, till near ten; when the day cleared up very much; the ſun ſhining, at intervals, very bright till near ſeven, when a pitchy darkneſs took place, ſucceeded by a very heavy ſhower.

There

There were that perceived a flaſh, or two, of lightning, juſt before the rain came down ſo impetuouſly.

I DINED at Mr. Senhouſe Wilſon's, where I met a large and very agreeable party, and where I was moſt hoſpitably entertained; pleaſed too with ſeeing ſo many fine olive-branches ſurrounding their plentiful board. Mrs. Wilſon was a Fleming, of the Rydal family. I thought I perceived a very ſtriking likeneſs betwixt her and the late *reſpectable* Mrs. Wilſon, of Dallam-Tower.

5th. A DREADFUL, blowing morning, with heavy ſhowers at intervals. The wind blowing ſo very furiouſly from the S. W. by S. and ſuch a very heavy ſea coming round the Head, and ſetting full into the boſom of the bay, takes away all hopes, I fear, of ſaving the unfortunate brig from an abſolute wreck. A ſmall ſloop (from Scotland) came into the bay before twelve, to ſeek ſhelter from the ſtorm. She luckily got within the pier-head at two; but it was with great difficulty, and by much *kind* aſſiſtance, that ſhe got in at all, againſt ſuch a ſtrong ebb-current as I had never ſeen *ſetting out* of the harbour before.

6th. AFTER a very diſagreeable, rainy evening

evening and night, a fair morning for a wonder; but very cold; the wind full north. For theſe two days paſt, they have been buſy carting up the bale-goods that have been got out of the ill-fated brig. I fear many diſaſters, of the ſame kind, will be heard of, in various places; it having been a moſt ſtormy equinoctial-ſeaſon, and of very long continuance: many are already known.

A NOBLE three-maſt veſſel, of nearly five hundred tons burthen, went on ſhore in Ramſey bay, about the very ſame hour the Minerva was ſtranded here; and another in Peel harbour. The former will be got off, without much damage to the veſſel; but the goods, a very valuable freight, will be very much damaged. She was Liverpool-built, but American property, bound to Philadelphia.—The veſſel in Peel muſt remain as ſhe is; a miſerable wreck.

WE heard, with much concern, yeſterday, that Capt. Cook's fine cutter is ſtranded upon the weſt coaſt of Scotland, and very greatly damaged.

IT is ſad weather for invalids too; at leaſt, I have reaſon to know it.

THE boats began to move out yeſterday, about two; but they *apparently* left their beloved haunts, with ſuch unwillingneſs, that I was quite

quite certain they would very ſoon return back to them; which proved the caſe.

TAYLORS and ſhoemakers, all commence fiſhermen, at the fiſhing-ſeaſon; and though vaſt numbers of them have been long idle, on account of the weather, yet not one would deign to touch an awl, or a needle: for they all are, or at leaſt think themſelves, gentlemen, whilſt there are any herrings upon the coaſt; perhaps beggars, or miſerably poor, before the next ſeaſon: for almoſt all have *yet* to learn that neceſſary leſſon of prudence, *laying up a little ſtore, againſt a rainy day.*

7th. THIS day kept fair till one, and then ſhowers came on; and the evening proved very ſtormy and unpleaſant. The unfortunate brig was ſold this morning, (by public ſale) in lots; the purchaſers to take upon themſelves all *future* diſaſters. I am told the lots ſold very well; eſpecially thoſe of the ſails and rigging. The ſale was for the benefit of the underwriters, under the conduct, and by the authority, of the water-bailiff of the iſland; who is veſted with legiſlative power and authority.

8th. A VERY fine, pleaſant morning, ſuch an one as this iſland has long wanted, on many accounts; but particularly for the getting into ſafe

ſafe ſtoring the long-neglected grain. On going up to the Head, found it as pleaſant, as in the late ſummer-weather. Finding it likely to continue ſo delightfully ſerene and warm, during the reſt of the morning, I was tempted to ſtroll along the bold, romantic coaſt, for about three or four miles. The tide-waves breaking under me, the whole way, upon the rugged rocks near the ſurface, amuſed me greatly with the daſhing ſound thereof.

THE day lowered a little, in the afternoon; but ſtill kept fair; and was cloſed with a pleaſant evening: I attended the card-aſſembly, at ſix; which I found to be very large, as well as an agreeable ſociety; meeting there with

Store of ladies, whoſe bright eyes
Rain influence—o'er fools and wiſe,
Who ſtrive, in vain, whilſt *all* contend;
To win *her* grace whom *all* commend.

The room was far too ſmall, for ſix-and-thirty ladies and gentlemen; conſequently, uncomfortably cloſe and hot, when ſix tables were lighted up with large candles, and a large fire burning, at the end of a low room. The card meeting broke up at ten, in conformity with the *eſtabliſhed* rules of the meeting: but ſome of the young ladies wanted to conclude the evening with a *ſociable* dance;—and a dance they

they had; but obliged to hop about, in *very close* order, in which ſituation I left them, very happy, before the fiddler had ſcraped over the firſt tune.

9th. A VERY cold, gloomy, bluſtering day. Wind N. and N. W. with ſprinklings of cold rain, at intervals.

THE goods recovered out of the wreck, ſave the bale-goods, to be ſold by auction this evening, and every evening afterwards, till the whole can be ſo diſpoſed of.

10th. A FAIR morning, and tolerably pleaſant, invited me up to the hill of health, ſoon after ſix. Till eight, was by far the pleaſanteſt part of the day, being calm, and perfectly fair. From that time, it began to blow freſhly; the wind bringing up very heavy, black clouds, from the N. W. beſtowing upon us, at intervals, ſprinklings of cold rain.

A NOBLE brig, called the Counteſs of Eglinton, came into the bay about two, from Saltcoats in Scotland, for the uſe of Mr. Tobin; to be freighted with his herring-caſks, up the Straights. A fine ſloop too, from Leith; ſhe went from here not many days ago, and had been trying to get north about, for Whitby; where ſhe was bound; but could not accom-

pliſh her deſign. She means now to make another attempt to the ſouthward; having been once as far as the Land's-end; from whence ſhe was driven back, by furious winds, into this northern channel; and has been happy to find ſhelter *twice*, within this port.

11th. A very blowing morning; wind S. W. but quite fair. The ſun, now and then indulging us with a little, cheering brightneſs and warmth, invited me up to the Head. It kept fair till two, and then as heavy a rain came on, as I ever knew fall for ſo long a continuance; laſting, not only the reſidue of the day, but all the ſucceeding night, without the *leaſt intermiſſion*.

12th. Though the night was ſo very wet, the morning became very pleaſant, before eight; which perſuaded me to purſue, through much wet and mire, the ſteps of yeſterday.

The wind moving (during my ſtay upon the hill) from the weſt, to meet the ſun, exactly at the quarter point of S. E. made me ſuſpect that the continuance of fair weather would be only of ſhort duration: but the day continued fair and bright, though very blowing, till even-tide.

The ſhattered remains of the brig are bought

bought by ſome perſons in the carpentry line, who are hard at work, in getting them ſeparated, and carting them away to a place of ſecurity.

13th. A VERY cold, ſtormy morning;—wind S. E. by S.—A light brig came into the bay, near the laſt of the tide; and, fearing terrible blowing was coming on, they forced her within the pier-head, juſt to get her within the bounds of ſafety. A ſmall Scotch ſloop, that left the harbour laſt night, is prudently brought back again, and grounded cloſe below the brig. As ſoon as the tide ſerves, the crews of both the veſſels will be very happy to moor them *within* the harbour: for it blows a tremendous gale, cauſing a vaſt ſwell in the bay, even quite up to the entrance of the harbour.

THE James paſſage-boat, from Dublin, came into the bay, ſoon after the others; but, finding the tide too far ſpent, and the entrance blocked up, ſhe rounded the Head again, and ſtood out a little from the ſhore. About five, ſhe beat up again, very handſomely, and ſoon exchanged a furious, raging ſea, for a quiet and ſecure harbour. The nice, new-bread from Dublin, which ſhe generally brings, was a little damaged; that was all the harm ſhe ſuſtained, with ſhipping many a heavy ſea.

About eight, there was a moſt furious hurricane of wind and hail.—It was a very fortunate circumſtance, that every veſſel, that had been ſeen from the pier-head *that* day, was got ſecured within the ſhelter of this moſt uſeful port.—The evening concluded with ſuch a deluge of rain as to render the ſtreets almoſt impaſſable.

14th. The morning tolerably bright, and tolerably calm too; though there is ſtill a great ſwell in the bay. The harbour is quite crowded with veſſels of different ſizes and denominations; and belonging to various ports and kingdoms. Great numbers of them put in here, merely for ſafety, to avoid the perils of the preſent very ſtormy ſeaſon. We muſt be under fears, for a while, of hearing bad *ſea*-news from various places; that element having *been* in ſuch a *very turbulent* ſtate, for ſeveral days paſt.

It is an unlucky circumſtance, for the public at large, that Government is not ſufficiently appriſed of the great importance of *this* harbour, as a place of ſafe retreat; as a noble aſylum for the diſtreſſed mariners to make to, "When "they are carried up to the heaven, and down "again to the deep; their ſouls melting away "becauſe of the trouble: when they reel to

"and

" and fro, and ſtagger like drunken men; and " are even at their wits-end."—When the furious winds whiſtle death in every ſhroud, and the thundering billows dreadfully re-echo the ſound, in every aſtoniſhed ear; or, in the emphatic language of our immortal Poet,——

" In ſuch rude viſitation of the winds,
" Who take the ruffian-billows by the top,
" Curling their monſtrous heads, and hanging them,
" With deaf'ning clamours, in the ſhrouds,
" That, with the hurly, death itſelf's alarm'd."

A FEW thouſands, granted by Government, and judiciouſly laid out in improving and enlarging this port and harbour, would be a meaſure ſo conſonant to reaſon and humanity, as to ſet all oppoſition at defiance; a meaſure that would do honour to our national character of public-ſpirit and general philanthropy; as the veſſels of all other nations (who have occaſion to traverſe the Iriſh-channel) would receive equal benefit and protection with our own. Who then *would dare* to call the expenditure a *job*, or even a *local* favour; when gratitude, ſounded in *foreign* languages, would be ever ready to falſify the charge?

15th. A VERY calm, pleaſant morning, which of courſe invited me up to my favourite

hill. Whilſt I was there, thirteen boats paſſed under me, at the Head, going out to try for dog-fiſh, or (as the Manks people call them) *gobbock*; but not without ſome hopes of meeting with a better reward. It was ſo very calm, that the boatmen were obliged to make uſe of their oars, and to bend cloſely to them too, in order to reach their *intended* ſtation; and two brigs (with every inch of canvaſs ſet that they could muſter) were two hours in getting up to the north ſide of the bay; and then were obliged to recede from the ebb-current, and paſſively return to very near the Head. I found it ſo very pleaſant, and ſo *comfortably* warm too, upon the lofty promontory, that I was tempted to ſtroll about upon different parts of the high grounds, for near three hours, finding the balſamic quality of the air there moſt refreſhing to my breaſt, which had been much harraſſed, for two ſucceſſive nights, with a teaſing, troubleſome cough. I fondly wiſhed to prophecy a ſhort ſeaſon, at leaſt, of mild, pleaſant autumnal weather; as I perceived that general hum in the air, though gentle, which ſounds ſo grateful to the ear, in fine hot ſummer weather.

I OBSERVED many hive-bees very buſy, roving about, amongſt the ling, and ſipping ſweetneſs from the few remaining flowers that were ſtill to be ſeen ſcattered about, in order to add

add a little freſh ſupply, to their winter ſtore.

—— " For ſo work the honey bees;"
" Creatures that, by a rule in nature, teach
" The art of order to a peopled kingdom.
" They have a king and officers of ſtate,
" Where ſome, like magiſtrates, correct at home;
" Others, like merchants, venture trade abroad;
" Others, like ſoldiers, armed in their ſting,
" Make hunt upon the ſummer's velvet buds;
" Which pillage they, and with quick march bring
" home
" To the tent-royal of their Emperor."

Poets in all times, and all countries, (the moſt refined and poliſhed ones eſpecially) have been happy in paying compliments of praiſe and admiration, to thoſe ſagacious, wonderful little animals; and have pilfered, without reſerve, from the ſweets of their labours, to enrich and perfume their own.

The trees now begin to exhibit a winterly appearance, having loſt thoſe mellow autumnal tints which the landſcape painters are ſo fond of introducing into their moſt finiſhed pieces; well knowing, what a ſoftneſs and richneſs they give to the general colouring.

Whilst I was upon the hill, I obſerved great numbers of men, women, and children, buſy raking up and carting away vaſt ſupplies of ſea-weed, brought up from the deep, by the

furious winds and waves of the preceding ſtormy night. Taking a walk afterwards, upon the ſand, I found great numbers of thoſe ſticking, tenacious plants, that had dragged after them to ſhore very cumberous burdens. I lifted one (that was moſt firmly attached to a large pebble) whoſe burden could not be leſs than fifteen, or ſixteen, pounds weight; another had brought up a fine freſh brick: that *could not be* its *natural* father, or its guardian, but one newly adopted for ſelf preſervation and ſupport. *See Journal for the 15th of June.*

16th. THERE was a very agreeable card-aſſembly the laſt evening, and the room very comfortable, being enlarged, by taking down two partitions, to near double the length it was the *preceding* meeting; but, agreeable as it was, I was obliged to leave it very early, on account of a moſt teazing cough, painful to myſelf, and troubleſome to others.

A FINE bright and dry October morning, with the wind at S. E. by S. and a gentle white froſt, before ſun-riſing. The boats are returned pretty ſucceſsful in their gobbock-fiſhing; by which they will make *pretty good* wages from the oil, and have plenty of favourite food for themſelves and their families.

AN old, experienced fiſherman told me, whilſt

whilſt upon the hill, that the beſt baits they can uſe, for catching that odious, ravenous ſpecies of fiſh, are the embrios of their own young; that as ſoon as they lay hold of a female, or bitch gobbock, they open her, take out the infantine young, and bait with them; by which they are ſure of laying hold of the male-fiſh, (and many females too) as faſt as they can let down their lines. How any human being can think of eating thoſe naſty, ſtinking, voracious ſea creatures, is aſtoniſhing to me; neceſſity muſt have firſt led to a trial, and cuſtom, that monſter cuſtom,

"That does all others eat,"

in time reconciled that oily food to the human palate. The common people, upon the weſtern coaſt of France, (where the dog fiſh abound, and are very large) eat them with great greedineſs; and the common people here are exceedingly fond of them—"*tantum prævalabit mos.*"—Talking with a gentleman and lady, at whoſe houſe I was dining lately, on that ſtrange predeliction, in the country people, for a food ſo diſguſting to the very ideas of others; they told me, their ſervants would frequently requeſt *the indulgence* of a little *freſh* gobbock, by way of a treat; and that their little boy, a lovely

ly ſweet rogue, not four years old, was ready to cry for it, when he ſaw the ſervants eating it, preferring it, to appearance, to any other kind of food.

It was exceedingly pleaſant, upon the hill of health, about mid-day; but not ſo warm as yeſterday; however I found the air ſo refreſhing to my breaſt, that I ſtaid, walking about, for more than an hour, in hopes of getting ſight of the mail boat, that was *again* ſo much beyond her uſual time of arrival, as to occaſion ſome anxiety about her ſafety; at laſt, I deſcried a veſſel in Laxey Bay, that appeared ſo very like her, that I deſcended from the eminence, quite contented. Meeting with ſome young ladies, on my return, I learned from them, that another hop had taken place, (after the concluſion of the card-meeting) which was kept up, *with ſpirit*, till after twelve: to which, as in duty bound, I paid a moſt ready belief.

The mail boat got into the bay before three. A ſmack arrived too, loaded with herrings, from the coaſt of Wales, for the uſe of Mr. Tobin, and intended for curing into red herrings. The Captain brings a dreadful account of the late ſtorm, upon that coaſt; that beſides much miſchief done to all the ſmall craft, it proved fatal to upwards of ninety poor fiſhermen in *one* night; dreadful event! How many wretched

wretched families muſt very long mourn their unhappy fate, and long feel the unhappy conſequences, in the loſs of huſbands and fathers.

17th. Wind S. E. by S. After a ſhowery night, a fair day, but very blowing. A veſſel came into harbour, from Liverpool; and the Argyle ſloop, from Whitehaven, loaden with an article much wanted here at preſent,—good flour.

18th. The laſt night was a moſt dreadful ſtormy one; wind S. E. by S. with frequent heavy falls of hail and rain; yet the day has proved fair, and, upon the whole, pleaſant; the ſun ſhining out with conſiderable brightneſs; and in the afternoon, the wind having quite ſubſided, with a comfortable warmth too. The higheſt tide, betwixt ten and eleven, that has been known here for a conſiderable time paſt, or perhaps ever well remembered ſo long before the *uſual* height of the ſpring: for the change of the moon is not till four this afternoon, therefore the higheſt tide in uſual courſe ought not to be till Tueſday.

The uncommon, early ſwell in the tide-current may be eaſily accounted for, from the *long continued* blowing of the wind, from a ſoutherly point, which muſt occaſion a vaſt influx

flux of water, from the vaſt Atlantic Ocean, into the Iriſh channel, where it is pent up within narrow bounds.

The ſun went down with great ſplendor and clearneſs; not a cloud to be ſeen above the horizon, feeding us with hopes of a fine day to-morrow.

19th. Some time before an early bed hour, a kind of blackneſs was very diſcernible, juſt above the northern part of the horizon. The ſtars, however, were remarkably bright and twinkling. In about an hour afterwards, the Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, were very viſible, ſhooting out of that dark ſhade, or rim of blackneſs, very vivid in appearance, and very lively in their movements.

When I retired to reſt, the night was perfectly calm; not a breath of wind to be heard; but before the night was half ſpent, I was awaked out of a ſound ſleep, by a ſudden and tremendous blaſt of wind, ſucceeded by ſuch a dreadful ſtorm of hail, as I never knew at this ſeaſon of the year. I expected that the windows, that were fully expoſed to the fury of the tempeſt, muſt be demoliſhed; and ſo they probably would have been, if the huge hail-ſtones had not been fortunately ſoftened by the large drops of rain that came down intermixed

mixed with them, blunting their ſharp, angular points. There were two heavy ſhowers of hail and rain before day-light appeared. The appearance of the morn was very wild and ſtormy; and ſo it proved to be, till the turn of the higheſt tide I have ever ſeen in this harbour. About eleven, the Pigmy cutter, Capt. Dundaſs, came round the Head, fired a gun, and then flew like lightning acroſs the Bay, towards Ramſey bay. Some of the old ſtagers here thought he might have come in very ſecurely, though the tide ran ſo very ſtrong, and the ſwell was ſo very great, quite up to the entrance of the harbour. He certainly judged otherwiſe, or he would not have paſſed his lady and family, anxiouſly waiting his arrival.

20th. This day is diſtinguiſhed, as being the moſt dreary, wet, and uncomfortable, that the preſent untoward month has ever preſented us with. Not one ſhort interval of fair weather, from the beginning to the end of the day. The Pigmy Cutter came through the bay, and into the harbour, with monſtrous rapidity, about twelve. Soon afterwards, a large brig (did the ſame) from Portugal, but laſt from Plymouth, laden with wines for the uſe of Mr. Tobin.

The ſtrange tale, I find, is revived, That an old gentleman, about ſeventy, is going to be

be married to a ſweet, young girl, about ſeventeen;—one

" That is faireſt, where thouſands are fair."

Such an incongruous alliance can never poſſibly take place, but through ſtern, parental authority and artful perſuaſions; and ſuch cruel and unnatural urgencies can only be inſtigated by that " *ſacra* auri fames,"—that curſed thirſt for gold, that would even match lambs with tygers.

THE beautiful, young creature, that is going to be ſo cruelly immolated to frigid old age and imbecility, may truly urge, againſt *parental advice*, the only authority that reaſon freely allows, with reſpect to ſuch matrimonial connection:

" Yet, ſay what you will,
" Wedlock's a pill
" Bitter to ſwallow,
" And hard of digeſtion."

STERNE very truly obſerves of the wiſe King Solomon, that, poor man! he greatly *miſcalculated* his wants. It may be as truly ſaid of our old gentleman, ſuppoſing him even a *modern* Solomon, that he has greatly *miſtaken his* wants. When gentlemen, from forty to fifty,

fifty, take it into their heads to marry beautiful young ladies, who ſcarcely number half their years, they muſt load them with a world of fine things, to balance ſuch diſparity; and muſt alſo *ſtrive* daily, nay hourly, to ſay and do a thouſand fine things, to make up for other deficiencies.—" Hoc opus; hic labor eſt:—This is toil; this is labour. This is literally and truly " revocare gradum,"—up-hill work. After the beſt is made (of ſuch an unequal engagement) that can be made of it, it will ſtill remain an aukward piece of patch-work; ill-joined together; as much out of nature's ſtyle of working, and as far from rational propriety, as training up a beautiful, ſweet and lovely roſe of maidens bluſh, to be ſupported by a withered thorn.

22d. A FINE bright morning, with an appearance of white froſt, before ſun-riſing.—I went up to the Head, to give a look-out for the mail-boat; but was not gratified with a ſight of her, nor of any moving objects, upon the vaſt expanſe of water before me, ſave two empty coal brigs, returning from Ireland.

THE ſun ſhone out delightfully clear and bright, making the feel of the air comfortable, though the wind was full eaſt, and ſent a ſtiff, ſteady breeze upon that head-land; yet ſuch a cheering

a cheering day, after ſuch a ſtormy ſeaſon, called up two or three larks, to entertain me with ſome ſprightly (though very ſhort lived) ſtrains, whilſt they attempted a feeble ſoaring or two, towards their favourite region.

——" Vain Mortal!
" Is it for thee, the lark aſcends and ſings?
No:
" Joy tunes *his* voice, and elevates *his* wings."

If ſuch a breeze as I found blowing there, (and coming from the ſame pinching quarter) ſhould continue blowing, for two or three days more, it will entirely diſrobe all the trees in the iſland, of *their mellow hangings, and leave them bare to th' weather.*

The body of a man, well dreſſed, with a watch and money about him, has been juſt found caſt up on the ſand.

23d. A dark, fair morning; the wind full eaſt, and ſo it continued the whole day. Though there was not any froſty appearance upon the ground, in the morning; yet a froſty chilline's prevailed, even at mid-day. A fine day, for ſtrong, walking exerciſe.

I have heard of the arrival of one woodcock, in this neighbourhood; but have not yet been fortunate enough to ſee one. There are

but

but very few partridges to be ſeen, or heard of, in *this* part of the iſland; and thoſe few are very wild, being daily teazed and tormented by numbers of peter-gunners, for ever on the ſtroll.

24th. THIS morning and day exactly reſemble the laſt, in every reſpect. I ſaw people very buſy in many fields, carting home the remainder of their barley and oats, and were able to get it in pretty dry at laſt; ſome ſtooks were conſiderably damaged, by being ſo long expoſed to a very wet and ſtormy ſeaſon.—They were very buſy in a great many places, getting their potatoes out of the ground. They ſeem (in general) to be exceedingly good and ſound, and the yield to be a very decent one.

ON my return from a walk over the river, was ſpoken to, by Mrs. C. on the quay, about the poor unhappy maniac Mr. B——d, who grows more outrageous and dangerous every day. That the poor wife (whoſe life is in daily danger) was abſolutely in a ſtarving condition, being *entirely* deſtitute of all the neceſſaries of life, without money, without friends, without even any acquaintance in the iſland, except a few who have been induced to notice, as well as commiſerate, her wretched ſituation, from motives of pure compaſſion alone. The hu-

mane lady requeſted me, in the moſt earneſt manner, to write to his brother, to make known to him their moſt pitiable ſituation in every reſpect; which I immediately complied with, though entirely unknown to the gentleman, having procured a proper addreſs to him, at Topſham in Devonſhire.

25th. The very ſame kind of a morning and day as the two preceding ones. The preſent drying wind from the Eaſt begins to make it comfortable moving about, drying up the late dirty roads wonderfully, though the days are grown ſo very ſhort. If the ſame drying wind continue for ſome days longer, it will make a fine wheat ſeeding in England. The few fallows intended for that noble grain, in this iſland, are moſtly, if not altogether, ſown, and begin to exhibit a greeniſh appearance. The practice of ſowing ſo early in this clime is well judged. In the north ſide, they ſow a good deal of rye, which ſeems to anſwer very well, upon that light, warm ſoil. I am ſorry to learn, what might be expected, that the fine veſſel on ſhore within Ramſey bay has received ſome damage, from the late very high tides, and ſtrong gales of wind blowing from ſouth eaſt.

26th. This

26th. This day is not to be diſtinguiſhed from the three preceding ones, in any reſpect. Such a ſameneſs prognoſticates, I flatter myſelf, a long continuance of dry weather, ſo much coveted, and ſo much wanted too, both in this iſland, and the neighbouring kingdoms. The Dublin paſſage boat arrived laſt night, with a great number of paſſengers on board, amongſt them ſeveral officers. No account whatever has yet tranſpired, reſpecting the unfortunate perſon lately thrown up by the tide, at the head of the bay. Many perſons fancy that he muſt either be an Iriſhman or lately come from Ireland, as there were ſeveral *new* Iriſh half-pennies in his pocket, together with a guinea, and ſeven ſhillings in ſilver; juſt enough to bury him decently, I truſt.

27th. The flattering hopes of yeſterday were defeated, by a ſhower or two during the courſe of the night; however, recompence is made, by a very pleaſant, bright morning, moſt tempting to ſtrong exerciſe; the air being ſharp and keen as may be expected at this ſeaſon, when the wind blows from N. E. by N. A fine wind for bringing plenty of woodcocks, and fine bright nights to help them to ſteer their winged courſe, from thoſe diſtant northern regions, we *ſuppoſe* them to breed in; for I

can never ſubſcribe to the whimſical opinion of a modern naturaliſt, That they chiefly breed within *our own* iſlands. That ſome maimed birds breed there, is a fact not to be doubted. The Liverpool paſſage boat (after waiting five days for a proper wind) got out the laſt evening tide.

28th. ANOTHER fine, bright morning, with a ſmall degree of froſt, but neither unpleaſant, nor unſalutary, to perſons in tolerable health. The Whitehaven packet boat came into the bay, a little before two o'clock, which was more early than was expected, though the wind was ſo very favourable in point; but a ſteady breeze brought her over in about ſeven hours. A fine veſſel left the harbour the laſt evening for Liſbon, with a family on board, for that place.

29th. A PLEASANT, dry morning, but very cool; the wind blowing full north. In my morning's ramble, obſerved flails at work, in various places; but all in female hands.—It is ſurpriſing to ſee how well the women uſe them. I would back a pair of females for batting out barley, or oats, againſt any two men, in the great farming counties in England, as to method and agility: I may add too perſeverance.

It

It provoked my temper, to ſee a huge, lazy fellow, handing them down the ſheaves, from the ſtack, with the moſt careleſs indifference; and then throwing his looby length to reſt, whilſt the poor women below were toiling inceſſantly, without a moment's reſpite, to *their* labour. In ſhort, almoſt all the laborious buſineſs in the iſland is performed by the women, who are as great ſlaves as they are either in France or Scotland.

30th. Some ſhowers, in the night, brought the wind down to N. W.—A gloomy morning, with a ſtrong appearance of a ſhowery day, and ſo it proved; for ſuch ſtorms of hail and rain I (hardly) *ever* remember in any country; not in October, I can truly vouch for; having experienced as much of their fury, as I could do, under the comfortable ſhelter of a chaiſe; being under the neceſſity (bad as the day was) of going down to Balla-Salley, to wait upon the *firſt* oracle of law in the iſland, though upon the *moſt trifling* buſineſs. When we got to the *once* venerable and peaceful Abbey of Ruſhen, now the ſcene of daily feuds and litigations, we found his Worſhip had adjourned his court, to the *hearing* houſe, or *ſhearing* * houſe, ſtanding upon the brink of a hill, whoſe

* For many are *fleeced* there, every hearing day.

ſteepy ſide is waſhed by the waters of ſtrife. When arrived at the hearing, alias *ſhearing* houſe, we found admittance hard to be gained, from the crowds that had taken poſſeſſion of every corner and crevice of it, for various purpoſes;

" For no one comes there
" But has ſomething to aſk, or ſomething to fear."

We at laſt got advanced, upon a landing of the noble flight of ſtairs that leads to the court room, where we were neceſſitated to wait ſome time, to let the overflowings of the *South* (i) paſs by us. During the neceſſary ſtay there, I peeped into a ſmall room, on my right hand, which was finely hung round with ſpider webs, reſembling the Cave of Famine,

" Where half fed ſpiders fed on half ſtarv'd flies."
" Some other difficulties overcome,
" At laſt we reach'd the juſtice room;"

Which I found to be the *Lit de Juſtice*, in the fulleſt ſenſe of the word; for there was *a bed* in the room, ſurrounded with the tattered remnants of ſome half ſtriped hangings, to keep the body from *ſome* cold, when juſtice, grown

(i) The attendants of that day being from the South parts of the iſland.

weary

weary with duty, wiſhed to take a ſhort repoſe. Received with great civility, and our buſineſs quickly and genteelly done, we had to make our retreat through a variety of odours, (the *ſweet* ſmell of gobbock perfuming every gale) and were very happy, when we got into our chaiſe again, which landed us ſafe at Douglas, in little more than an hour.

" Oh! plague us not, ye Gods! though guilty,
" With more *ſuch* ſmells, and ſights *ſo* filthy.

HUMILITY is a moſt amiable virtue, but it is not equally becoming, or profitable, at all ſeaſons, and upon all occaſions. When my worthy friend, C. P——n, was attending his duty at Lancaſter, as High Sheriff for that reſpectable county, he was taken ill; and perceiving from ſome *well-known* ſymptoms, that a ſevere fit of the gout was coming on, was moſt anxious to get under the care of his moſt excellent wife, and very excellent nurſe, before he was entirely laid up; he therefore requeſted me to go to the Judge, as *upright* a magiſtrate as ever had the honour of ſitting upon any bench, and ſolicit his Lordſhip, for leave to return home, before he was diſabled from moving, by the approaching fit. The caſe being repreſented to the learned Judge, his Lordſhip

ſaid "he found himſelf ſtrongly diſpoſed to "gratify Mr. H. S. in his requeſt, and com-"paſſionating his critical and painful ſituation, "was willing he ſhould *immediately* return to "his good nurſe; but it muſt be upon the "following conditions; That ſome gentleman "ſhould take the wand, who would duly at-"tend him to, and in, court; that the coach, "&c. ſhould be left, and one half of the pro-"per attendants, as long as he was obliged to "remain at Lancaſter, upon *his* duty. That "ſuch ſtipulations did not originate from "pride, nor were they founded in a fondneſs "for ſhew, or parade. He was not at an age, "to be enamoured with the trappings of place "or dignity; but he was ſenſible, that the "dignity of *the circuit* (of ſuch conſequence to "the kingdom) could not be kept up, without "a proper adherence to thoſe forms and cuſ-"toms which had been ſo long, and ſo wiſely "eſtabliſhed; That he could not help think-"ing, that the awful ſound of the trumpets, "and the reſpectable attendance of the High "Sheriff and other gentlemen, upon ſuch a "ſolemn adminiſtration of national juſtice, "had a wonderful good effect upon the minds "of the lower ranks."

WHATEVER tends to make magiſtracy re-ſpectable, ought to be ſtrictly attended to; and

and a due decorum, as well as proper attention to the appearances of dignity and authority in office, are the moſt likely means to eſtabliſh reſpectability in the *perſon* of the magiſtrate, and give him *due* weight, with all ranks.

31ſt. THERE was a moſt tremendous ſtorm laſt night, ſoon after ten, attended with flaſhes of lightning, together with a moſt heavy fall of hail and rain. It fortunately was but of ſhort duration, (not laſting half an hour) or it muſt have been fatal to a great number of veſſels. A brig and a ſloop were driven in here (though going upon quite different tacks) in very great diſtreſs, with hardly a rag of canvaſs left upon either of them; and the captains ſay, had the ſtorm continued but ten minutes longer, they muſt (probably) have loſt *all* their maſts. The former was going to Ireland with coals, the other coming from thence (with young cattle) for Workington. They are both got ſafe into harbour, but both touched once, or twice, upon the rocks before the entrance; but fortunately without any material damage to either.

THE Whitehaven packet boat prudently kept within, though under ſailing orders. The hills in this iſland had a ſmall ſcattering of ſnow upon them; but it was *only a ſcattering;* whereas thoſe in Cumberland were as white as ſnow could

could make them. The morning was very cold and frosty, with pretty strong ice upon all the pools or dubs of water that were open to the north; the wind blowing full from that cold point.

November 1st. A GLOOMY, damp, and most unpleasant morning.—Wind changed to S. W. —The Whitehaven packet boat ventured out last night, so did the Countess of Eglinton, Mr. Tobin's fine, stout brig, for the Straights. A fine three-masted vessel, belonging to Scarborough, came in from Memel, loaded with plank, &c. on account of three or four of the merchants of this place.—As the day advanced, it grew more boisterous and unpleasant, and was closed by a wet, cold, stormy evening. The other vessels, for the Straights, are very anxious to get out by the next tide; but the wind is now changed in point, so as to become quite as unfavourable as the weather.—It is well they are in port.

2d. THIS day has the true cast and complexion of a November-day; exceedingly dark and gloomy; at the same time very boisterous and stormy; circumstances that but rarely accord together, at any season of the year. There is great emulation amongst both the owners and captains of the vessels, who shall be first with

with their cargoes of herrings, at an Italian market; but it is not always the firſt ſtarter from hence that is the firſt through the Straights. "The race is not always to the ſwift," ſays the *wiſe* man.

3d. The two laſt days have been ſuch as firſt brought *this* month into diſgrace, as the *peculiar* ſeaſon in the year when the dreadful crime of ſuicide was moſt prevalent in England; but the *cowardly* perpetrators of that horrid ſelf-butchery will not now wait for the *ſhadow* of an excuſe, but impiouſly ruſh into the preſence of their great Creator, *uncalled for*; at *every* ſeaſon of the year; even the moſt cheery and delightful; when every object around them ſhould inſpire *chearful* gratitude, and *hourly* thankfulneſs for the *firſt* bleſſing that indulgent Heaven can beſtow upon man, or *any* created being. Shocking are the accounts, in the public papers, with reſpect to the *frequency* of thoſe flagrantly-daring acts of wickedneſs alluded to. We will candidly hope, thoſe accounts are *much* exaggerated; or elſe this horrid ſtigma *muſt reſt* upon the *preſent* age, as being more daſtardly, and yet more *preſumptuouſly* inſulting to the Divine Prerogative, than any age before it, ſince the eſtabliſhment of Chriſtianity within our realms. No reſpect

to

to alliances, however great and noble, no pity to relatives, however worthy and deſerving of compaſſion, ſhould prevent thoſe marks of infamy and diſgrace (ſo wiſely ordained by our anceſtors) from being ſtrictly inflicted upon the miſerable remains of ſuch impious offenders: for diſgrace will ſometimes work reformation, where reaſon has toiled in vain.

THE wind changed in the morning to N. E. by E. which took out, by the mid-day-tide, the beautiful Eliza *(k)* and the two humble brigs, her companions, for the Straights. I hope they will all have a proſperous and ſucceſsful voyage.

THIS day has not been ſo gloomy as the preceding ones, but frequent, ſmall ſhowers made it both unpleaſant and uncomfortable moving about; every place being ſo terribly wet and miry.

4th. THE moon ſhone ſerenely bright, till near morning, when the ſky became a little overcaſt; however, the morning is fair, though not bright, and, I hope, will be the fore-runner of a *dry* day, which is much wanted; for the drieſt ground is become quite pouchy, from the inceſſant fall of rain for many days paſt.

THIS day, a hundred and one years ago, was

(k) It is boaſted ſhe is to gain the race.

a memorable

a memorable day, being the æra of the glorious REVOLUTION; the day that brought civil and religious liberty into the happy iſland of Great Britain, and laid the foundation of a firm and noble eſtabliſhment, to preſerve thoſe invaluable bleſſings, to ages unborn.—It is a day to be much remembered, by all true born Britons, whereſoever diſperſed upon the face of the globe. In France, (at the centennial celebration, laſt year) I muſtered a few friends, friends to liberty, amongſt them a French gentleman, of noble, liberal principles, who moſt cordially joined in the remembrance, wiſhing that France had ſuch an event to celebrate. What may be the final iſſue of ſuch a ſpirited ſtruggle for liberty as the preſent, God only knows; but their preſent ſituation, as a kingdom, is truly deplorable; a ſituation that commands the ſolicitous attention of all Europe.

THIS day began to clear up about ten, the wind blowing a ſteady gale, from the Eaſt, and the ſun ſhining out with a chearful brightneſs, but ſtill the day continued cold. A little after eleven, the mail boat and a ſloop, from Whitehaven, both came into the harbour with a briſk gale; after a ſhort, and very pleaſant paſſage.

6th. THE morning, though cool, was very pleaſant

pleaſant for the month of November; and as the wind was N. E. gave the ſtrongeſt expectations of a fair day; but before eleven, it had veered about to the S. W; a general haziness ſoon prevailed and, before twelve heavy ſhowers came on, and continued to fall all the reſt of the day; which became very raw, and moſt uncomfortable.

THE poor, unhappy young man, Mr. C—p—y, (who is ſo much deranged in his intellects) came to the card aſſembly laſt night. He behaved very peaceably and civilly; but a wildneſs in his looks, and an apparent reſtleſſneſs, of mind as well as a continued agitation of body, made him an object of pity and compaſſion, with every humane mind. He has ſquandered away above ſixty pounds, in a few weeks.—There are publicans, ſo *devoid* of feeling for ſuch diſtreſs, (and ſomething elſe, I fear) as to take the moſt unfair and ſhameful advantages of his inſanity; there are ſome in trade, that have done the ſame; and there *are perſons* who *ought* to have known and judged better, that have accepted valuable preſents from him, without bluſhing;

——" even ſome in fortune's lap high fed."

Our inimitable poet has made the fair, unhappy

happy Ophelia, whilſt in her right mind, behave with the greateſt propriety and decorum; ſhe,——as a *ſubject*,——accepting from Hamlet *as a prince*, ſome trifling preſents, a few female ornaments: and under ſuch circumſtances, there was great propriety in receiving them; to have refuſed them, from *him*, would have been indecorous; but, as ſoon as ſhe perceived the apparent, melancholy change in his mind; that thoſe fine powers of underſtanding, the ſubject of ſuch general admiration, the theme of every tongue, were entirely deranged, reſembling "*ſweet bells jingled out of tune*," ſhe requeſts permiſſion to return them; to which he bluntly anſwers,—"I never gave you ought."—With a mildneſs, as ſweet as the ſouth, "That breathes upon a bank of violets, "ſtealing, and giving odour,"—ſhe modeſtly "replies—"Yes; my Lord; right well you "know, you did, and with them words of "ſuch ſweet breath as made the gifts more "rare.——That perfume loſt, take them "again."——

I KNOW different people will entertain different ſentiments, upon one and the ſame ſubject; for my own part, I ſhould as ſoon think of accepting a purſe from an infant, that fooliſhly wanted to give it me, or from the moſt idiotic child of nature, as from that unhappy

happy young man, whoſe mind at preſent is *entirely* at *variance* with reaſon.

CAPTAIN DUNDASS, in the Pigmy Cutter, ſailed out of harbour, by the mid-day tide, on a cruize to the ſouthward. No leſs than eight light brigs, returning from Ireland for the coal ports in Cumberland, put in here for ſafety, during the courſe of a moſt tempeſtuous day. —As the day was, ſo was the evening. The hills were white with ſnow and hail, from morning to night.

7th. THE laſt night was dreadfully ſtormy and wet, and a great part of this day has been the ſame. It has cleared up this evening, giving ſome hopes of a fair day to-morrow. The Whitehaven packet boat, and all the light coal veſſels, have kept cloſe in harbour; very wiſely judged; for the weather ſtill continues very ſtormy, and there is a good deal of ſea in the bay; though the wind *now* blows from land; being nearly due north.

8th. THOUGH the laſt evening was very fine and bright, yet there muſt have fallen ſome ſhowers in the night; every place being ſeen ſwimming with water, this morning. I have had two, or three, ſamples of marl, ſent me for inſpection, out of the north ſide of the iſland,

iſland, where it greatly abounds, and is coming much into uſe with the ſenſible farmers; for there cannot be a finer tillage, for their light lands. I ſaw a ſpecimen of the pureſt marl I had ever ſeen in any country, the day I paid my viſit to Mr. Crellin. It makes its appearance in vaſt talks, in ſeveral places, along the high beach behind his houſe, where the Daniſh inurnments are to be ſeen.—See Journal for the 31ſt of Auguſt.

One of the ſpecimens, lately ſent me, is very unpromiſing to appearance; but it is highly ſpoken of for its excellency; and exactly reſembles the falling clay in Piccardie, of which I find the following note, in my Journal for November laſt, kept at Boulogne.

"The practice of claying their land, for a wheat crop, is quite a novel buſineſs here, and the ſubſtance (when firſt dug out of the ground) the moſt unpromiſing for yielding fertility that can be looked upon; being juſt the colour of lead, and almoſt as ponderous. Though the piece of ground, under the mode of improvement, was nearly three miles diſtant from my lodgings, I gave it (nearly) *daily* inſpection; in order to ſee the whole proceſs. The clay was laid upon the fallow-land, in cart loads, where it remained three or four days, to dry; then three or four women, (for the females

do all the operoſe buſineſs, as well as carry all the heavy burdens, in this country) were employed to ſet it out in lumps, at equal and proper diſtances, juſt as we ſet out marl in England. After being expoſed, a few days, to the ſun and air, it began to crack and ſhiver, in the very ſame manner as one ſpecies of our marl does, by ſome huſbandry writers called the ſlate, by others the dice marl. When the clay was fallen to a certain degree, they went over the ground, when perfectly dry, with large, heavy harrows; by which well-timed operation, the unpromiſing ſubſtance became finely and equally pulveriſed. Soon afterwards, it was turned down by the plough, and in that ſtate remained till the firſt week in October. It was then brought up again, and immediately ſown with wheat, in the broad-caſt way, which finiſhed the whole buſineſs.

"The pit from which the clay was procured, was tolerably near the ground intended to be ſo improved, and had been opened the ſpring but one before, by the owner of the fayancerie at Boulogne: but it would not, by any means, anſwer for the earthen-ware manufactory; as was very ſoon ſelf-evident to myſelf, from obſerving ſome pieces of it ſcattered upon the ground, in carting down to the neighbouring ſhore, in order to be conveyed from thence by

water,

water, to near the fayancerie; thoſe ſcattered pieces, in two days after they were expoſed to the ſun and air, ſeparating into diſtinct flakes, and very ſoon afterwards falling like lime.

"POSSIBLY, nay probably, the farmer might have ſeen and noticed the ſame particulars, and had, from ſuch favourable circumſtances, been induced to try it as a manure; for without a circumſtance of that nature to recommend an experiment, it is ſo very unpromiſing to the ſight, that an idea of fertility could never be reaſonably adopted; it exactly reſembling, in outward appearance, that blue clay which in many parts of England has obtained the name of golt, and is every where eſteemed ſo untractable a ſubſtance, as to be conſidered as a mere *caput mortuum*."

"I CAN remember a heap of that unprofitable, terrene ſtratum remain near twelve years, without the leaſt alteration from the ſtate it was dug out in, before any one inhabitant of the vegetable world formed any alliance with it. The firſt that made its appearance there was a globe thiſtle. By the detruſive power of the roots, and the moiſtening quality of the ſap, communicated by thoſe roots to the ſurrounding particles, that heavy, ſteril ſubſtance became ſo meliorated and improved, as to become (in a year or two more) a proper matrix for a

variety of other plants; that (from their healthy appearance) ſeemed to like their ſituation upon that long-unfruitful mount.

"THE ſeeds of all the thiſtle-tribes are inveloped in a light, downy kind of covering; and are furniſhed with a kind of ſpine, or hook, pendant from every ſeed. From the former property, the winds are empowered to carry them about, to a variety of places, and thoſe too at conſiderable diſtances from the original ſtock. The latter quality enables every individual ſeed to keep its fortuitous poſition, till it begins to vegetate, and ſo acquire a kind of hereditary claim to that ſpot where the wind happened to wing it. When the young plant has acquired a conſiderable degree of ſubſtance and ſtrength, it is furniſhed with a milky juice, or ſap, which gives it that meliorating, fructifying power above alluded to. It is *that* power which makes it rank ſo high with *learned* naturaliſts, when treating upon that regular gradation of plants, in the vegetable kingdom, with regard to uſefulneſs, though deſpiſed and generally held in contempt, by ſuperficial obſervers. Even that correct writer, VIRGIL, has thought proper to treat ſo very uſeful a plant with great contempt and aſperity.

"*Segnisque horreat in arvis carduus.*"—

By

By the above deſcription, ſome of his annotators ſuppoſe he meant the carduus ſativus, or fuller's thiſtle; a moſt uſeful, nay neceſſary plant for the woolen manufacturers: but that uſe was entirely unknown, in that great poet's time; who has therefore been inconſiderately led to beſtow another reproach, or ſtigma, upon the whole briſtly tribe.—

" *Pro molli viola, pro purpureo narciſſo,*
" *Carduus, et ſpinis ſurgit paliurus acutis.*"

"A PIECE of ground, managed in the very ſame manner the year before, which was the firſt experiment, proved, by far, the beſt crop in the whole neighbourhood."

THIS day, from eight to ten, gave us ſome flattering glimpſes of hope and comfort: but, from that time, it became of the ſame gloomy caſt as every preceding one, ſince this month, of malign aſpect, has had dominion over us; pouring down upon us, inceſſantly, rattling ſtorms of hail, or deluging torrents of rain.

" *omnia plenis*
" *Rura natant foſſis, atque omnis navita ponto*
" *Humida vela legit.*"

" The country ſwims, all delug'd are the dales,
" And every pilot furls his humid ſails."

9th. Not being a ſound ſleeper, my reſt was frequently broken and diſturbed by tremendous ſtorms of hail, rattling againſt the windows. I am very glad to hear Capt. Cook got into the harbour laſt night with his cutter; for, in the deſcriptive language of Thomſon, it may be truly aſſerted that this morn

—

" *Sighs* the ſad genius of a coming ſtorm;
" For up among the looſe, diſjointed cliffs
" And fractur'd mountains wild, the brawling brook
" And cave preſageful ſend a hollow moan,
" Reſounding long in liſtening fancy's ear."

There will be no occaſion to warn honeſt mariners againſt venturing out of port this day; for one angry dog, after another, ſcouled baneful influence from the north-eaſt this morning.—" A rainbow, at night, is the ſailor's delight;" but thoſe luminous appearances, in a morning, are their juſt dread: as far as fear can encounter their undaunted breaſts.

The hills were ſo cloſely hooded this morning, with duſky vapour, that I could not diſtinguiſh whether they were again whitened over, or not. I met with the Captain of a coal-trader, from Whitehaven, yeſterday, who mentioned his veſſel being on ſhore, in Ramſey Bay. At the ſame time heard of the like diſaſter to a veſſel in Peel Harbour. I wiſh they

may

may be the laſt diſaſters of the kind that we may hear off from the late ſtormy weather.

The day (about eleven) began to clear up wonderfully; therefore the packet boat ventured out ſoon after one, and was immediately followed by the eight light coal veſſels, that had taken ſhelter here.——Wind got nearly to the Weſt.

10th. The morning was bright, and pleaſant, though with a little froſty feel; the wind bearing near a point to the northward of weſt. About ten the wind began to veer about towards the ſouthward, and the ſun ſhone out with a tolerable degree of warmth; which tempted me to quit my coal-fire, and take a ſtroll quite to the head of the ſand, where I found a great number of people aſſembled together, buying, by *open* auction on the ſhore, the old iron, and ſome refuſe timberings, belonging to the late wreck.

On my return, met with a marine plant, or ſubſtance, that was not only a novel ſight to me, but alſo a wonderful one. The outſide reſembled a large honey-comb, being very cloſely ſtudded with pipes, or tubes, exactly like the ſheath of porcupine's quills. The inſide was perfectly ſmooth. After paying long and very cloſe attention to it, in order to diſ-

covers, if possible, its use: the only probable conjecture I could make was that it might be the seed bag, or seminal repository, of some very *large* marine plant, that had discharged its contents, and was become light enough to be brought on shore, by a strong-running tide, and a furious wind aiding its force by blowing full into the bay.

THERE is a greater variety of marine plants to be met with in the several bays, and creeks, belonging this island, than on any shore I have ever before visited. I once began to notice and enumerate the different tribes or species of marine mosses, to be daily met with upon the sandy shore of this bay, or growing upon the rugged rocks, at the north side, but found it too tedious a business to go on with, in the accurate manner I could have wished to observe them. They are tinged with the most beautiful shades of red, green, brown, and yellow. There are some few of a bluish cast. Those that are tinged with the different shades of red are by far the most numerous.

THERE are persons here, who are firmly of opinion that the rock-cod receives his beauteous colouring, from living constantly amongst the rocks that are cloathed with plants and mosses of the same pleasing hue.

11th. THOUGH

11th. THOUGH the laſt evening was tolerably fine and bright, giving hopes to many that the weather was going to clear up, and be dry *for a while*; yet ſeveral ſhowers fell in the night, making every place ſwim with water *this* morning; *which* may well be coupled with many that have gone before it, being a true November day in every reſpect.

I STOLE a walk to the pier-head before breakfaſt, when I had the pleaſure of ſeeing Capt. Dundaſs, in the Pigmy cutter, come into the bay, from the coaſt of Wales. The middle of the day was very paſſable; but, after three o'clock, it became moſt tempeſtuous, and uncommonly wet, even for *this* iſland; one of the moſt humid pots upon the globe.

12th. A SHOWERY night has produced a tolerably bright morning; which as the wind is changed to the north weſt, may poſſibly produce an *entire* fair day.

THIS is one of their annual fairs, in this place; which has brought great numbers of country people here; all ſadly beſpattered with dirt, in coming through ſuch miry roads, upon their little horſes. It is a general allowance, that the roads in the iſland are at preſent more foundrous than they have been for ſeveral years paſt: but if they had been even much

much worſe, the country folks would have waded through them to the fair; the joys of a country wake, being ranked amongſt the *firſt* joys that they know or prize; and it's right that the labouring hands ſhould have their ſhare, if it is of an inferior caſt, in the genral fund of life's pleaſures; therefore ſhall ever rejoice, when the few ſeaſons that furniſh their humble allotments prove favourable; tha they may enjoy them, without ſpoiling their holiday cloaths: changes of raiment, even amongſt the middling ranks, being rare thing, in the inland parts of this iſland; from whic the wakes, or fairs, are chiefly furniſhed with gueſts.

A PARTY, in the next houſe to my lodgings, a public houſe, began footing it about, by ſix the laſt evening, and I heard them hard at work, after four in the morning. I could not be ſorry to hear

—— "the romp-loving laſſes
"So haul'd about, in gallantry robuſt."

Nor did I regard their noiſy joys, though they occaſioned frequent interruptions to my reſt; at a time too much wanted.

13th. THE laſt day proved entirely fair to the end of it: and, I believe, it continued fair till about three this morning, when I heard a pelting

a pelting ſtorm againſt my window; which was ſucceeded by ſeveral more, before the appearance of day-light, that has diſcovered to us one of the moſt pouring-down, tempeſtuous mornings that the gloomy month of November, ſo abounding this year in ſtorms, has preſented us with. The channels in the ſtreets are like torrents, that are not paſſable (in ſome places) without difficulty.

The Liverpool paſſage boat, Capt. Brew, came in this morning, about ſeven, with ſeveral Engliſh paſſengers on board. The James, from Dublin, came in the laſt evening, with ſome paſſengers from thence, and is to ſail again ſoon, for *Cork*, with a family intending to go from thence to Liſbon.—The rain abated very much for three or four hours, after mid-day; but the wind continued to blow full as ſtrong as in the morning, and in the evening it became quite a hurricane, fetching down ſlates from the roofs of many houſes, ſo that it was dangerous to walk through the narrow ſtreets.

Many people are very uneaſy about a veſſel, that went freighted from hence for Liverpool, the laſt evening; their hopes of ſafety are, that as the wind changed ſo much to the ſouthward that ſhe *could not* fetch Liverpool, ſhe would make for the Lancaſter channel, and get into Peel harbour, before the violence of

of the ſtorm came on. I fear we muſt hear ſome bad ſea news, in a day or two.

14th. It blew all night, and till four this morning, in the ſame violent, tempeſtuous manner as it did in the evening. Since that time, the wind has abated a little, but ſtill blows very hard. If it have done no harm at ſea, it has certainly done *ſome* good at land; for I have not ſeen the ſtreets in this town ſo dry for many weeks paſt. The day continued fair, ſave for one ſmart ſhower at eleven, which, for ſome hours, took away my morning's boaſt of dry ſtreets.—Nothing yet heard of the mail boat, though the concluſion of the week. She will be ſadly out of her uſual courſe.

15th. A FAIR morning, and the ſtreets full as dry as they were yeſterday morning; but they did not long continue in that comfortable ſtate; for ſoon after nine, a very heavy rain came on, which preſently reſtored them to their uſual, uncomfortable plight.

I HAVE heard that the George (which went from hence juſt before the laſt furious blowing, and was the veſſel that all the people *here* were ſo anxious about) had, with difficulty, got into Ramſey bay, or harbour, in great diſtreſs, with the loſs of her bowſprit, and other material damages.

mages. It is lucky ſhe got in there, in any way; for ſhe could hardly have lived out ſuch a perilous ſtorm (though a very ſafe, ſtout veſſel) and of ſuch a very long continuance.

I HEARD yeſterday alſo, that two perſons were arrived here from Liverpool, to enquire after the body of the unfortunate perſon that was found caſt up by the tide upon this ſhore, on the 22d of the laſt month, [*See this Journal for that day*] to take it up from the place it was depoſited in, by the lockman, or deputy coroner, and to convey it to Liverpool.

EXPRESSING a wiſh to my obliging hoſt, at the Liverpool coffee houſe, the laſt evening, to ſee thoſe perſons (that I might learn the melancholy tale, with all its attendant circumſtances, from ſuch authority as might be depended upon) he very civilly brought them up to my lodgings, this morning. I found them very civil, ſenſible, well-behaved men; one of them being a gardener to the late unfortunate deceaſed; the other an engraver and joiner, from near St. Aſaph.

THE former told me that his late maſter, Mr. David Foulkes, was a bachelor, about forty-four years of age, a gentleman of very ample fortune, and lived in a handſome country ſeat, at Gwernigron, near St. Aſaph. That he had been upon buſineſs, and a viſit, to ſome friends

friends in Ireland, and was returning from thence, in the Hillſborough packet boat, upon the evening of the 17th of September laſt; when, on paſſing by the light-houſe near Dublin, he unhappily went upon deck, to look at it: when ſtanding with his back to the rail, with the guide-rope in his hand, a ſudden ſquall of wind came on, which gave the veſſel a heel, and the ſhifting of the boom knocked him *backwards* over board; when his body was heard, by the man at the helm, plump into the water: but he never could ſee the leaſt of him afterwards, though he ran to the ſide. That the above account came from the mate of the packet boat, the captain not being in the veſſel at that time; who farther added, That when his unhappy maſter went on deck, he was dreſſed in a handſome blue grey coat, a black ſattin waiſtcoat, a flannel under waiſtcoat, faced with ſattin, a pair of nankeen breeches, a pair of new boots on, buckled up with ſilver buckles above the knees, handſome ſet knee-buckles; and he believed his gold-watch was upon him, as it could not be found afterwards. The poor man, with grief ſtrongly expreſſed in his countenance, ſaid he was cut to the heart, when he came here and learned that they had buried his worthy, unhappy maſter, worſe than a dog; that he was thrown into a hole, without a coffin,

with

with noting about him but a coarſe wrapper. —This as turned out the very worſt day, in this ill-mened-month. The clouds poured down upn us ſnow, ſleet, hail, and rain, ſo copiouſly, nd for ſo many hours, (without any intermiſion) that I ſhould have been tempted to thinl there had not been the leaſt drainage before om their ſtores, if I could have forgotten evry obſervation upon the weather, during thlate wet ſeaſon; but my Journal proclaims in, in (almoſt) every page, ſince the entran of October.—Wind N. W. by N.

16th The night continued very wet, but notwithanding the fall of ſo much rain, all the hills we very white this morning.—Very ſhowerall day; wind N. W.

17th There was one of the heavieſt ſhowers, thmorning, (betwixt one and two) that I ever hrd come down without being preceded by a thnder-ſtorm. It has done much ſervice; f it has waſhed and cleanſed the ſtreets of this wn, wonderfully; a benefit and comfort th the inhabitants muſt never expect to enjoy, ut when ſhowered down upon them from alve. What colour the mountains put on thmorning, it is impoſſible to ſay, they are ſo oſely huddled up, in duſky fog; though a very

a very ſtrong breeze blows upon land, from the Eaſt; occaſioning a very conſiderable ſwell in the bay, and ſtopping the ſailing of two or three veſſels, that were prepared for going out, by this day's tide.

I MADE an attempt to get to the iſland this morning, but found it was impoſſible to get up *there*, without being mid-leg deep, in mire and water, therefore reſerved that pleaſure, for a froſty morning; which I ſhall be very glad to ſee, being quite tired out with ſuch a perpetual deluge of watery vapour.

18th. THE wind continuing fixed, in the ſame point, as yeſterday, gave hopes in the morning of a fair day; but ſeveral ſhowers, ſome pretty heavy ones, began to fall before mid-day, and the afternoon turned out very ſtormy and unpleaſant.

WENT with Mr. Willoughby, to wait upon the deemſter and the attorney general, to requeſt their aſſiſtance (which was inſtantly granted) in recovering the very conſiderable property, taken and ſecreted by the ſeamen from the body of the late unfortunate Mr. Foulkes. Twelve coal brigs, from the Cumberland ports, to Ireland, were in ſight and the ſame time, paſſing by the bay, under a fine, ſteady breeze.

19th. THE

19th. The wind exactly in the ſame quarter, and it blows with ſome degree of fury, which occaſions not only a great ſwell and ſurf in the bay, but high up in the harbour too; ſo that all the veſſels are, at preſent, harbour-locked.

20th. Went up to Kirk Onchon (alias Kirk Concan) along with Mr. Willoughby, to ſee the body of the unfortunate gentleman, Mr. Foulkes, taken up and placed in a decent coffin: in order to be brought down to a room in this place, and from thence put on board, when the wind ſerves, the veſſel that is ſent over to convey the poor remains, near to the place of family interment.

21ſt. The Deemſter has been fully engaged both yeſterday and this day, upon the buſineſs reſpecting the diſcovery of the body of the late unfortunate Mr. Foulkes, and the property found upon it; moſt of the valuable articles, except the gold watch, chain, and family ſeal, will be recovered. The penknife in his pocket, with the initial letters of his name engraved upon it (by the man that attends the gardener) and the gold ſtock-buckle found upon his neck after the body was taken out of the ground, identify his perſon beyond the poſſibility of a

doubt. It was a fortunate circumstance that the last article was concealed (by a handkerchief) from the sharp eyes, and itching fingers, of the Lockman, being found to wear one tongue broken, as had been exactly described by the gardener before the breaking ground a second time in the church yard, for the breaking the ground, in order to deposit the remains, had been charged by the Minister, five shillings; which was paid him by the Lockman; and he was repaid the money by Mr. Willoughby.——Wind N. W. E. by N. very cold, but fair.

22d. Wind the same. Weather the same as yesterday. The streets and roads begin to dry a little, giving some hopes that we are going to enjoy a season of fair weather, which is very much wanted in the island for husbandry purposes, as well as many others.

This evening, the remains of Mr. Foulke were removed from Mr. Kennet's warehouse, and put on board the vessel in the harbour. The number of persons, of all ranks, who attended, or were spectators of the solemn procession, was wonderfully great. Every mark of respect was shewn, and every one seemed anxious to wipe off the disgrace which the conduct of an illiterate, ill-judging *Deputy of a Coroner* had brought upon the island.

The Coroner, when he appeared, did not make a much more respectable figure than his deputy; but, from character, he is a plain, honest man; without *long* eyes or *rapacious* hands; so I hope, from the caution now given him, he will (for the future) execute the respectable office himself, and prevent a *similar* disgrace from being brought any more upon his *native* land, whilst *he is in office*.

23d. A fair day, with the wind at N. E. which prevents the Whitehaven packet boat from sailing. Though the feel of the atmosphere, both morning and evening, gives a frosty sensation to the hands and face; yet there is no appearance upon the ground that indicates frost. I am told, that frost seldom (if ever) sets in here (at least with any severity) till after the commencement of the new year.

The farmers have had another very ample supply of tangle and other sea-weeds, by the blowing of the late easterly and north-easterly winds. The potatoes in this isle are undoubtedly superior to those of any other country, a bad or insipid one being an unpleasing circumstance, that rarely occurs; and their superior excellency is pretty generally attributed to the *general* use of that manure, in the cultivation of them. The inhabitants of the mountainous

parts of the island are so sensible of its incomparable advantage in raising that material article of sustenance, that they carry it up, upon the backs of their little horses, from the seashore to the most hilly parts of the island; great numbers (*this day*) were so employed.

24th. A FAIR morning; with a very drying wind, first from the N. W. then full N.—towards mid-day N. E.—about four changed to the North, with a little tendency to the westward; when the Whitehaven packet boat sailed out of harbour, taking from us our very sensible, agreeable companion, for ten days, Mr. Huddleston, of Hutton John, near Penrith, in Cumberland.

25th. A FINE, bright, dry morning; wind N. E. therefore I fear our friend would have a long passage of it, to Whitehaven; but as the weather proves so moderate, and the night was enlivened by the light of a cloudless moon, and such multitudes of bright, twinkling stars, it could not be unpleasant to a person of his philosophic cast of mind, joined with a chearful, easy temper, that always gives a happy serenity to his own mind, and makes his manner most pleasant to others.—The vessel, with the remains

mains of Mr. Foulkes, left the harbour about five this afternoon, with a very fair wind.

26th. A most fine bright morning, with a ſtrong white froſt, which portends, I hope, a continuance of dry, *comfortable* weather, though very cold, both at morn and eve: but that is what may be expected, in any country, when winter is ſo far advanced.—Wind N. E. by E. yet I found it delightfully ſerene and pleaſant (in the middle of the day) upon the ſands, where I walked about two hours, and found it quite as warm as I could wish, for walking exerciſe; being perfectly calm, and the ſun ſhining out the whole time very bright, and with ſome *ſmall* degree of warmth.

27th. The laſt night, or very early this morning, was ſo very ſtill and calm, hushed being every breeze, that I could hear, as I lay awake, the tide receding from the rough, pebbly ſhore, near the pier-head. The gentle murmurings dying away gradually, till the percuſſions became ſo very languid, that ſound was ſcarcely diſtinguiſhable from ſilence. I have been ſeveral times delighted, when walking upon the ſands at the head of the bay, in a fine ſummer's evening, with hearing the gentle murmurings of the retiring waves, dying away almoſt inſenſibly upon the ear.

Nothing can inſpire the mind with more pleaſing ſerenity, and rational calmneſs, than ſuch a tranquil evening ſcene.

Whilst I lay attending to the ſoft murmurs, heard from afar, I could not help adverting to that night-ſtillneſs, which is ſo finely illuſtrated in Richard the Third, juſt before the memorable battle of Boſworth-field. A *ſecond* repetition of that ſtriking deſcription, from the mouth of the *warlike Gloſter*, lulled me to quietude, and at laſt to a refreſhing ſleep, then much wanted, and much wiſhed for.

"How awful is this gloom! And hark! from camp
"to camp
"The *hum* of either army *ſtilly* ſounds,
"That the fixed centinels almoſt receive
"The *ſecret* whiſpers of each others watch:
"Steed threatens ſteed, in high and boaſtful neighs,
"Piercing the night's *dull* ear.—Hark! from the tents
"The armourers, accompliſhing the knights,
"With clink of hammers cloſing rivets up,
"Give dreadful note of preparation; while foes,
"Like ſacrifices, by their fires of watch
"With patience ſit, and inly ruminate
"The morning's danger."

This noble ſoliloquy, in my poor opinion, ranks very high in poetical merit, amongſt ſo many celebrated ones, that are read with admiration and delight, in that inimitable poet's works.

The morning was as ſtill as the night, but the day has turned out almoſt the reverſe of yeſterday, being dark, gloomy, foggy; with ſome very damp miſt, or drizzling rain, about mid-day.—Wind about N. W. but ſo little of it, that the ſmoke from the chimneys aſcended in a *perpendicular* direction.

The evening has cleared up wonderfully, and gives us a promiſe of a longer continuance of the dry, comfortable weather we have ſo *truly enjoyed* for ſome days paſt.—Captain Stewart, in his cutter, is got into the bay.

28th. In my journal for laſt year, kept at Boulogne, within the mild region of France, for this day twelvemonths, it ſtands thus,—"The cold now moſt intenſe; ſome ſmall birds have been found killed with the froſt this morning.—I never can remember any froſt being ſo ſevere in England, except in the memorable year 1739—40, when vaſt numbers of the feathered tribes, of almoſt every ſpecies, loſt their lives, during the *long* continuance of that chilly ſeaſon; ſuch numbers of ſinging birds periſhed, that the ſweet melody of the groves was nearly mute, for two or three ſubſequent years.

"Mr. Egede, a *Moravian* miſſionary, (but of *Daniſh* extraction) in his report of his Miſſion

to Greenland (drawn up with much apparent truth, exactneſs, and candor) obſerves, that though that winter was ſo remarkably ſevere in moſt parts of Europe, even the moſt ſouthern, yet it was (comparatively with the ſeveral others, he had ſpent, in that *inhoſpitable* region) uncommonly mild; that in conſequence of that mildneſs, many of their freſh-water lakes kept open the whole winter; and that they were covered with immenſe numbers, and a vaſt variety, of water-fowl, ſuppoſed to have emigrated, contrary to all former experience, from more ſouthern climes, into that *icy* region, in ſearch of food in *their* open waters.

"It is from that ſenſible Narrative that Krantz *drew* the moſt valuable of his materials, for the pompous hiſtory of a country very little known to Europeans in general; but without having either the candor, or juſtice, to acknowledge from *what* fountain he *drew* his chief and *moſt curious* intelligence. Thoſe who are in poſſeſſion of the Narrative, will be able to convict the hiſtorian of the moſt ſhameful plagiariſms, not only in many very material paſſages, but in the moſt *luminous* and brilliant top of his pompous performance. Monſ. Thorkelen, the ingenious Profeſſor from Copenhagen, ſpoke in very favourable terms of Mr. Egede's Narrative, and told me a ſecond part had been

publiſhed;

published, which I did not know before, or should have tried to have procured it where books are to be had.'

THE JOURNAL at this place, for the ſame day in the ſame month, in a ſubſequent year, ſtands truly thus:—"The morning delightfully ſerene and pleaſant, though a little froſty, but not more than is neceſſary to brace the body, after a relaxation of ſo many weeks, by continued damp, or very wet weather. The middle of the day not only calm and ſerene, but pleaſantly warm and comfortable."

A LARGE fleet of coal veſſels, above thirty, paſſed the bay the laſt evening, (ſoon after the riſing of the moon) from the Cumberland ports, for Ireland; exhibiting a beautiful moon-light view. The Whitehaven packet boat came into harbour, at the ſame time. As this day began with brightneſs and ſerenity, ſo it has ended; and is cloſed up by a moſt beautiful moon-light night.

29th. THIS morning was not what I expected from the clear beautiful appearance of the laſt charming night: for there was a very lowering ſky, from the firſt dawn of day, and a very heavy atmoſphere, from which I expected a fall of ſnow, but ſtill it kept fair; and the wind, riſing towards night, drove away the heavy

heavy vapour that had been hanging over us the whole day.—The wind kept shifting about all the day, from N. E. to W. seldom an hour together in the very same point.

30th. A DARK, gloomy, unpleasant morning, but fair; which is a great comfort.—Wind full East, and blows freshly.—A small shower fell about mid-day, but no more rain afterwards; though the sky was very lowering, and suspicious for giving us a very copious distillation.

December 1st. A COLD, raw morning.—wind full East, and blowing very freshly,—which, of course, makes a good deal of swell in the bay, and locks up the harbour for outward-bound vessels. A small sloop did attempt getting out, and (by towing) did get out of the pier-head: but the captain was prudent enough to bring her in again, before the tide was too far spent.

2d. EXACTLY the same kind of a morning as the last: the wind blowing from the same quarter, and with the same degree of force, which will effectually lock up the harbour this day. The wind began to rise very much about nine, and shifting a point or two

to

to the southward, caused a tremendous sea to come round the Head, making such a prodigious swell in the bay (at the time of high-water) as I have not seen for many months past.

Two very curious presentments, delivered in at the Bishop's Court, holden at Kirk Christ Lezayre, about a fortnight ago, have fortunately fallen into my hands.—The first, "*The devil take Billy Wattleworth, for having such bad ale.*"—This by a man. The second, *Such an one* (mentioning the man's name) *has got the clap, or foul disease.*"—This offence by a young woman.—These facts authenticated I had from a person who was present at the delivery of them into the court; being given for that purpose, by the wardens of that parish.

We have learned, from the first law-authority in England, that words are not the *less* libellous, for being founded in truth. I dare say the Spiritual Reformers of manners, within this island, hold the very same doctrine; for I have not the least doubt but the ale was *bitter* bad; for all that I have tasted, since I came here has *well deserved* that character; though it may be a libel to say so; and I have not the least doubt but the woman spoke truth, and from woeful, *convincing* experience. It is very hard that the afflicted may not have the privilege

privilege of complaining, without being delivered over to the tormentors.

THESE kind Reformers meet once a fortnight, taking the parishes in rotation. I will not pretend to say what progress they make in the good work of Reformation, but they certainly make great progress in the art of *good living*: for wherever they mark the place for fixing the Episcopal Standard, there is sure to be a great slaughtering of poultry. If they do not *literally* live upon the FAT of the land, yet they certainly do upon the most choice viands, and the most luxurious dainties that the island can produce; and I hardly know a *better* land to live in. Let them live well (in God's name) so they do not persecute, harrass, and oppress the poor, under the thread-bare, stale pretext of a *reformation of manners*. All reformation ought to begin at home.

I ASKED the gentleman what was likely to be the punishment subsequent upon those *two curious* presentments he had seen delivered in? He replied, A fine upon the offenders, at the *discretion* of the court. The word *discretion* forced an exclamation from me, "*The Lord have mercy upon them!*"

THIS island certainly has need of another Edward Earl of Derby, to issue *another* Commission of Enquiry into the tyranny and abuses

abuſes of thoſe who are intruſted with church power and authority. With ſuch ſenſible commiſſioners, named in that commiſſion, as thoſe that were appointed to inveſtigate and remedy ſuch abuſes by the noble Earl, in the year 1532, much good might be expected.

The evening was ſhowery and unpleaſant, but the wind grew more moderate.

3d. The latter part of the night was very bright and clear, and the morning is fair, bright, and very mild and pleaſant; but I muſt no longer boaſt of clean ſtreets in Douglas, the rain of the laſt evening having brought them into their *uſual* plight.

Whilst walking upon the pier-head this morning, before ſun-riſing I heard a throſtle upon the oppoſite hill ſide, ſinging for near half an hour together; a circumſtance moſt uncommon at this ſeaſon of the year. His notes were not ſo loud as when poured forth upon a fine ſpring morning, but equally ſweet and perfect.

Whilst ſtanding with ſome gentlemen upon the pier head, to wait the ſailing of Mr. Bacon's brig for the Straights, one of the gentlemen called our attention to a prodigious number of porpoiſes, that were rolling about the point, under Douglas-head. I have ſeen vaſt numbers

numbers of them, in croſſing the channel from Boulogne to Dover, but never a quarter of the number that were collected together to-day. There was a line of them acroſs the bay, that extended a full mile in length, and the water in that line was quite alive with them. It was a moſt entertaining ſight, to ſee them rolling about in the water.

They were all moving in the ſame direction, ſouthwardly, meeting the coming-in tide; moſt probably purſuing ſome very large body of fiſh, from the prodigious numbers that were collected together, all ſteering the ſame courſe, after their proper prey no doubt.

The weſterly wind and fine moderate weather have made a prodigious clearing in the harbour; betwixt twenty and thirty veſſels have left it, within forty eight hours. The Liverpool packet, and two ſmacks from the Welſh coaſt, came in this morning; one of the ſmacks had above three hundred ſtaize of fiſh for Mr. Woodhouſe; the other, empty.

4th. It has blown very freſh moſt of the night, and is become rather ſtormy this morning, with a ſmall fall of rain.—That ſweet bird of a throſtle, that amuſed me with an unexpected ſong yeſterday, did the ſame this morning, and in a louder and bolder ſtrain. When the town-clock was ſtriking eight, he was ſinging delightfully.

delightfully. How different from this day was the ſame day of the month laſt year! when my Journal at Boulogne *ſtands thus*.—"Howling, ſtormy winds prevailed a great part of the night *doubling* the bleſſings of a warm retreat and comfortable ſhelter from their chilling influence; thoſe howling winds loudly proclaiming the horrors of the preſent ſeaſon in general, and noticing the approach of a joyleſs day. And ſo it turned out: the cold more intenſe than ever. Yeſterday being ſerene and bright, I made an agreement with my friend Audrey, to walk up the river ſide, (for three or four miles) with our guns, in ſearch of wild fowl and ſnipes, that come down in vaſt abundance to get a little food in the ſtreams of the Liance, which are yet kept open by the conſtant viſiting of the tide-water, whilſt all the land-ſprings, and freſh-water-ſtreams, are entirely locked up with the preſent moſt ſevere froſt: but old Boreas gave us ſome ſuch furious chilling blaſts, at our outſet, that we ſoon agreed and determined, That a book, over a warm fire, would be a more pleaſant amuſement, and a more prudent option, as we had both picked up colds. A moſt dreadful *ſtormy* day, it has proved.

" Poor naked wretches, whereſoe'er you are,
" That bide the pelting of this pitileſs ſtorm,

" How

" How ſhall your houſeleſs heads and unfed ſides,
" Your loop'd and window'd raggedneſs, defend you,
" From ſeaſons *ſuch as theſe?*"

" THERE were more very old people in Boulogne, I believe, than in any town of the ſame inhabitancy within Europe; but the preſent moſt inclement ſeaſon makes them fall as faſt as pears over-mellowed by hanging drop from the parent-tree, upon the firſt approach of winter's hoary froſt; and it is not to be wondered at, conſidering how poorly they are fed, and how dreadfully pinched too with cold, from without: being ſo very deſtitute of fuel, that they can *never* ſubdue the frigid power of the atmoſphere, within their poor miſerable cottages; in which, therefore, winter reigns *entirely uncontrouled*; and forces the poor creatures to ſhiver out their too wretched lives under the painful ſenſations of cold and hunger; dreadful death!

Oh! ye wealthy!
" Expoſe yourſelves to feel what wretches feel,
" That you may ſhake the ſuperflux to *ſuch*,
" And ſhew the heavens more juſt."

A WHERRY and ſmack (belonging to Peel) came in loaded with herrings, laſt night, from the

the coaſt of Wales. Mr. Tobin has purchaſed both cargoes.—Wind full Weſt.

6th. It has been a very bluſtering, ſtormy night, but fair in general. The morning is much of the ſame caſt. It has been exceedingly ſtormy and diſagreeable ſince nine o'clock, though fair, and the air vaſtly mild for the ſeaſon of the year.

It is well the Dublin packet came back ſo ſoon; it would have been impoſſible for her to have made her paſſage *there*, with the wind in the preſent point, and blowing ſo freſhly too. There is a great deal of ſea. Thoſe porpoiſes did not dance and ſport ſo merrily, without a cauſe: they ſmelt the ſtorm.

The throſtle gave me another ſweet ſong this morning, but it was in a more feeble ſtrain than yeſterday. Mentioning the circumſtance to a gentleman of this place, and my ſurpriſe at it, he ſaid he had obſerved thoſe birds ſinging ſometimes at this ſeaſon, but was always ſorry to hear them, as it was a certain ſign of rainy and blowing weather.

6th. A very fine faſe morning. The wind blows very moderately, and the air is ſo very ſoft and mild, that I ſhould not wonder if the linnets reſumed their warblings, and joined

in chorus with that ſweet bird of a thruſh, that has ſo agreeably entertained me, for four mornings ſucceſſively.

How ſtands my Boulogne journal, for the ſixth of December, laſt year?—Thus,—"For the weather of this day, I may truly uſe the language of Doctor Young, when ſpeaking of his plaints,

"A bitter change! ſeverer for ſevere."

The Liance, that noble, clear, and very rapid ſtream, in an hour or two after the tide had receded out of its channel, was arreſted in its paſſage down to the ſea, and became an abſolute glacier; a circumſtance unknown here, as I am informed, except in the year 1739—40, when, ſome old people *think*, the ſame thing *once* happened, but are not clear about the matter."

The hair-dreſſer has told me, that Madame La-Batte died this morning, very ſuddenly; for ſhe was very well yeſterday until ſix in the evening, or at leaſt as well as ſhe had been for ſome time paſt.

"The ſpider's moſt attenuated thread
"Is cord, is cable, to the tender tie
"Of human life. It breaks with every breeze.
"Thus runs death's *dread* commiſſion, ſtrike, but ſo
"As moſt alarms the living, by the dead;

"Hence

" Hence ſtratagem delights him, and ſurprife;
" And cruel ſport with man's ſecurities."

A VERY fine brig, bound from Liverpool to Baltimore in America, came into the harbour, being put back by contrary winds and hard blowing, happy to get into this ſafe and moſt convenient place of refuge from ſtorms and all the perils of the deep.

7th. A GLOOMY morning, but fair, though rather ſtormy; however the air was very mild, rather uncommonly ſo, for December, in any climate.

8th. THE *fineſt December day* I can ever remember; the air mild, bland, and pleaſant, which tempted me to go up to the Head, where I had not been for ſome time, the road up being ſo miry; and there I found it as warm as I could wiſh; much warmer than many of the days we had in the month of May. The ſweet thruſh was ſinging moſt delightfully, this morning, and was at laſt anſwered by another at ſome little diſtance from it; ſo it was at times,

" Sole, or reſponſive, to each other's notes,"

making a moſt agreeable variety, in the natural harmony of thoſe ſweet ſongſters.

9th. A MOST charming, fine morning, mild and pleaſant, beyond all my remembrance, at this time of the year.—The Pigmy cutter came in ſight a little before eight, but was a very long time in beating up into the bay, the wind being full weſt, or rather with half a point to the ſouthward; and though the weather was ſo very temperate, yet there was a very ſtrong tide-current which ſhe had to ſtem.

10th. THIS morning is gloomy and foggy, with ſome ſuſpicious ſymptoms for a change, from the delightful, dry and mild winter-weather we have had for a week paſt, to another dropping ſeaſon. The ſweet bird entertained me with another ſong, early this morning. The Pigmy got into the harbour by the laſt tide; it turned out wet at night.

11th. A VERY ſhowery morning, very unfavourable, for our ſhooting ſcheme, down to Peel, with an agreeable party, for three or four days.

THE morning proving unfavourable for the *intended* deſign of ſhooting; betwixt the ſhowers, I managed to get two walks along the head of the bay, quite to the coves, or caverns, found

found amongſt the romantic rocks at the north boundary of it.—They are very curious, extending a conſiderable diſtance under the rocky cliff, and are formed by the natural arching of ſeveral ſtrong lamina of ſtone, folding one over another in the moſt groteſque manner. They are noted for being common meeting places for young men and women, lovers, in fine ſummer weather; more deſirable places for privacy and retirement could not be wiſhed for:

"*Speluncam Dido, Dux et Trojanus, eandem*
"*Devenient.*"

—Wind South-Weſt.

12th. A very mild, ſoft morning: wind Weſt; but very ſuſpicious in appearance for rain, before mid-day; I therefore gave up the ſports of the field, for ſome clean, dry, and healthy ſtrolls along the gravelly ſhore, at the head of the bay, and gave the coves another minute inſpection; as well as ſome rugged neighbours. The ſtones (being of a ſoftiſh nature) are (by the continual daſhing of the waves againſt them) formed into a thouſand antick ſhapes. There is one that *moſt exactly* reſembles a large baſe-viol. In ſhort, a perſon with a fruitful imagination, and a *turn* for

finding out reſemblances betwixt inanimate and animated nature, would meet with a fund of entertainment there.

About a quarter of a mile farther along the ſhore, to the northward, is a black towering rock, more than half torn, or ſeparated, from the iſland; it is called the *Stack*; from its reſemblance in ſhape, I ſuppoſe, to a ſtack of hay. That rock makes one of the horns of a very perfect creſcent, which forms that beautiful little bay. The rocky iſland of Peel, covered with its ancient and venerable ruins, makes the other horn. This bay is one of the firſt about the iſland, for furniſhing all the choice kinds of fiſh (which theſe northern ſeas are ſtocked with) in the greateſt abundance.

We have been feaſted theſe two laſt days, with noble cod and haddocks, in the greateſt perfection and ſeaſon, and brought upon the table in leſs than two hours after they were taken out of the briny waves. There is a large cod, of the rock kind, juſt brought into the houſe, intended for this day's dinner. It is a very beautiful fiſh, almoſt of a vermilion colour. Some people *here* fancy they acquire that beautiful red tinge, from feeding very much upon young lobſters; but lobſters are of a blackiſh colour in the water, and only become red by boiling. If not a diſtinct ſpecies from

from the grey cod, I am apt to think the beautiful tinge is communicated to the ſkin, by the red moſſes and weeds, which all the rocks are cloathed with, in thoſe places where they are generally found and taken.

THERE is a ſpecies of fiſh, frequently taken in this bay, called a whiting, pollock, or kil-lock, in Ireland, called lives; which very much reſembles a cod in ſhape and colour; but the head much ſmaller. It is eſteemed, by the natives, a firſt-rate fiſh, being very firm, as well as high flavoured, and the fleſh of it as white as chalk.——Wind S. W.

13th. A FINE fair morning, wind S. W. but not without ſome ſymptoms of rain coming on, towards the evening: which has proved to be the caſe; heavy rain coming on before four in the afternoon.——Returned to dinner at Douglas, through very bad, miry roads, moſt of the way betwixt the two towns: glad to quit the Liverpool coffee houſe in Peel, the moſt impoſing houſe in the iſland, for our moſt excellent quarters, at the Liverpool coffee-houſe in Douglas; quitting one of the moſt ſaucy, impertinent, ſour tempered women that ever preſided at a bar, for one of the moſt obliging, civil, and good tempered women, that was ever engaged in that buſtling line of life.

14th. Several snow showers fell, during the night, as the tops of the hills were very white this morning; the wind very bleak and cold, though blowing from a westerly point. I did not hear my sweet bird this morning; I therefore fear his melody is over for some time.

15th. It has been a blowing, showery night, and is very cold and unpleasant this morning; the wind having shifted to a northerly point; nearly due north.

A gentleman was complaining to me the other day, what a terrible town *this was* for censorious tittle tattle, malevolent insinuations, and ill natured constructions upon the most harmless transactions; that the most spotless innocence, in a female character, if a stranger, was sure to be reflected upon, or misrepresented. I could not help observing to him, that from *my* observations, every small country town, in every country, was much the same; that Mr. Addison had very justly observed, in the Spectator, that in every town of *that description* there was a Lady Blue Mantle, or two, ever ready to invent scandalous tales; and idle people enough, for want of other and better employment, ready to propagate them; that such mischievous, meddling, busy-bodies were undoubtedly

doubtedly the peſts of ſociety; but they were ſuch general peſts that, I feared, it would be in vain to look out for any ſociety (*any where*) that was entirely exempt from them; that I had long learned to deſpiſe and contemn common report; to conſider it in the ſame light as Virgil does *common* fame,—for which the Engliſh obſervation juſtly is, *a common liar*—

" *Tam ficti pravique tenax, quam nuncia veri.*"

" Reports a truth, or publiſhes a lie.

The *latter*, *moſt commonly*, her buſineſs.

It is a very noble deſcription of Fame, given by the poet, though ſeveral critics blame it, for being ſo very long and prolix;——

" *Fama, malum quo non aliud velocius ullum;*
" *Mobilitate viget, viresque acquirit eundo:*
" *Parva metu primo; mox ſeſe attollit in auras,*
" *Ingrediturque ſolo, & caput inter nubila condit.*"

" Fame, the ſwift plague, that every moment grows,
" And gains new ſtrength and vigour, as ſhe goes.
" Firſt ſmall, with fear ſhe ſwells to wond'rous ſize,
" She ſtalks on earth, yet tow'rs above the ſkies."

16th. After a moſt ſtormy night, a terrible ſtormy morning; the wind blowing moſt furiouſly from the N. W. and in moſt chilly, bitter

bitter blaſts; bringing ſhowers of hail and ſnow with it; in ſhort, it is the moſt winterly day we have yet had, ſince the winter ſeaſon commenced; yet ſummer weather, in compariſon of the 16th of December laſt year, at Boulogne; —for my Journal there ſtands as follows;

"THE laſt night was the moſt ſevere one ever known in this country. A certain neceſſary veſſel in my room, though not more than three yards diſtant from the fire-place, (where a moſt excellent fire had been kept the whole preceding day and evening, and a great part of the night) was frozen over with an ice of near half an inch thick, at eight this morning. As it was a nipping and moſt eager air during the night, ſo it bites ſhrewdly, and is moſt dreadfully cold this morning; but very gloomy and overcaſt, which, I would gladly hope, portends a fall of ſnow; from which alone we muſt *firſt* expect a melioration of the atmoſphere.—Though I paſſed the night in ſo very warm a ſituation, yet I was dreadfully tormented with ſevere cramps and ſtitches, which made me roar like Caliban, when puniſhed with them, by the magic powers of Proſpero, his maſter.

"For this, be ſure, to night thou ſhalt have cramps,
"Side ſtitches that ſhall pen thy breath up; urchins
"Shall for that vaſt of night that they *may* work,
"All exerciſe on thee.——

"If

" If thou neglect'ſt, or doſt unwillingly
" What I command, I'll rack thee with old cramps;
" Fill all thy bones with aches, make thee roar,
" That beaſts ſhall tremble at thy din."

Our inimitable poet was certainly infected with the vulgar prejudice and error of thoſe times, handed down to the preſent, reſpecting the poor urchin, as being a miſchievous, peſtiferous creature; whereas, from the moſt minute inveſtigation into her ways and manner of living, I do not believe, there is a *more* inoffenſive, little animal in the whole ſcale of creation.

FROM the above paſſage as well as others, it is plain our admirable poet gave in to a very favourite, and prevailing opinion of *his* days, that all noxious animals, as well as EVIL SPIRITS, were reſtrained to a certain time and ſeaſon, to *work* in, or effectuate, their miſchievous or wicked purpoſes.

" It was about to ſpeak, when the cock crew;
.....
" And then it ſtarted like a guilty thing
" Upon a fearful ſummons. I have heard,
" The cock, that is the trumpet to the morn,
" Doth with his loſty and ſhrill-ſounding throat
" Awake the GOD of DAY; and, at his warning,
" Whether in ſea or fire, in earth or air,
" Th' extravagant and erring ſpirit hies
" To his confine."
.....

" It

" It faded on the crowing of the cock.
" Some ſay, That ever 'gainſt that ſeaſon comes
" Wherein our SAVIOUR's birth is celebrated,
" The bird of dawning ſingeth *all night* long:
" And then (they ſay) no ſp'rit dares ſtir abroad;
" The nights are wholeſome; then no planets ſtrike,
" No fairy takes, nor witch has pow'r to charm;
" So HALLOW'D, and ſo GRACIOUS, is the time.

. . . . . .

" So have I heard, and do in part believe it."

HAMLET, Act 1.

I AM juſt now informed, from very good authority, that the cold, or froſt, is more intenſe, by three degrees of the thermometer, than it was in the very ſevere froſt of 1739-40, ſo remarkable over all Europe, for its ſeverity, as well as very long continuance.

SEVEN veſſels from different ports ran into *this* bay laſt night for ſhelter from the terrible blowing; ſome are come in, others are moored under the ſecurity of the lofty head.—I wiſh they were all in, as it proves a moſt dreadful, ſtormy evening; and ſhould the wind ſhift to the Eaſt, thoſe that are out of the harbour would be in a perilous ſituation.—I wiſh we may not hear *again* ſome dreadful ſea-news, from various quarters; for a more guſty night, I hardly *ever* remember; the dark of the moon too, and the nights *now* being ſo very long,

muſt

must greatly increaſe the danger of being out at ſea, in ſuch weather.

17th. After a very ſtormy night, a very blowing morning; but not ſo tempeſtuous as the laſt.—Wind full North, or rather with half a point towards the Eaſt.—Three brigs went out by the mid-day tide; one for Baltimore, the others for Ireland. The James packet boat followed them in the afternoon, taking the advantage of the ebb-tide, to carry her round the Head;—but ſhe was forced to put back.

18th. The wind abated gradually in the night, and was ſo huſhed early this morning, that the *famous* band of muſic belonging to this town announced in their ſerenade, and ſalute, "*paſt ſix o'clock, and a very mild and pleaſant* "*morning.*"——Intelligence that I received with great pleaſure, from the mouth of a poor blind ſcraper, and was thereby encouraged to take a walk upon the pier-head, before breakfaſt; where I found it tolerably pleaſant, though ſtill rather windy.

My ſweet bird, on the oppoſite ſide, entertained me moſt of the time I walked there with his chearful ſong. The day changed ſurpriſingly for the worſe, whilſt I was taking my exerciſe upon the ſand. The wind ſhifting, all

all at once, from N. W. to near S. W.; it began ſoon to blow furiouſly, and very ſoon afterwards became full as tempeſtuous as yeſterday, and full as cold. I was very glad to make a ſpeedy retreat to my lodgings, and ſtick cloſe to good coal-fire, for the reſidue of the morning.

The Kirkcudbright packet boat came in the laſt tide, into the entrance of the harbour, but a large brig and a ſtout ſloop rode out the ſtorm in the bay.

19th. The laſt evening, and the beginning of the night, were dreadfully ſtormy, with a moſt heavy fall of rain, for ſome hours, but the wind abated during the courſe of the night, and at day break this morning, it was perfectly calm. I took a few turns upon the pier-head, before breakfaſt, and was all the time entertained with the ſweet thruſh on the oppoſite ſide. He is conſtant to his ſtation; always perching upon a ſmall thorn, in the bank. He was as loud and ſhrill this morning, as if it had been the dawn of a fine April one: that he was ſaluting, with his mattin-ſong; rejoicing in the advance of ſpring, that ſeaſon of love and cheerfulneſs with all the feathered tribes.

I have now had the pleaſure of ſeeing and taſting a whiting pollock. It was about twelve pounds

pounds weight, and exactly reſembled a cod in outward appearance: only the head longer, and vaſtly ſmaller in proportion; not unlike a pike's of that ſize. The fleſh is uncommonly white, and in flavour and firmneſs may be juſtly compared with the haddock, *when in high ſeaſon.*

The bays of this iſland certainly *abound* with a greater variety of the moſt choice kinds of fiſh, than any one place I know.—Of the ſalmon tribe, the ſalmon *proper*, the bull-mort, and the ſprod, or ſea trout.—Of the cod-tribe, the grey cod, the red or rock cod, the whiting pollock, and the haddock.—Flat-fiſh, ray, turbot, ſoal, plaice, flook, and flounder.—Mullets, red and grey; gurnets, red and grey; mackerel, herring, and herring huit; ſea carp, do. eel and conger; do. whitings; bloffin, and ſeveral other kinds: but not of much eſtimation for table uſe. Shell-fiſh, lobſters, crabs, prawns, ſcollops, razor fiſh, ſea craw fiſh, limpits, and *oyſters*, of which there is a noble bank, or bed, betwixt Laxey Bay and Maughold-Head; extending above two miles in length, and near two in depth; diſtant about a mile and a half, from the ſhore. They are of a large ſort, but are well flavoured and tolerably fat. The lobſters are equal to any that are to be met with, in *any* country; they are taken chiefly

chiefly in pots, within Castletown bay, and in very great plenty; so much so, as to supply Dublin market, and several others in Ireland with that choice article; for which purpose there are two or three small vessels employed *constantly*, during the season, to carry them over quite fresh.

The scollops are equally excellent in their kind, and the crabs are very good. When I was at Peel, I had an opportunity of seeing and tasting a couple of the wild, or rock pigeons. They are smaller than the dove-coat pigeon, and of a much darker colour, being almost black. Their legs and feet are of a beautiful red colour, and their beaks of a yellow, or gold colour.—They are very fine eating birds, being very sweet and high flavoured. Vast quantities breed in the high rocky cliffs, all the way from Peel Island to the Calf. They are a very shy bird, not easily approached by a gunner; but boys scramble up the rocks, and take the young ones out of the breeding holes.

20th. After a stormy night, a very blowing, cold, disagreeable morning, (wind W. with half a point to the N.) which cut my morning-walk very short, and silenced my sweet thrush; not a note to be heard. There was a brig to be seen, off Clay-Head; but no sight, or

or intelligence, of the mail-boat. Yeſterday I fully expected we ſhould have had froſt, or ſnow, from the vaſt collections of ſmall birds that were to be ſeen about the out-ſkirts of the town. There could not be leſs than a hundred yellow hammers, in one flock, and ſparrows innumerable, with chaffinches and tit-larks, in vaſt plenty.

In the Boulogne Journal, for this day laſt year, I find the following obſervations.

"This day I ſaw four ſparrows in the yard, and was much rejoiced at the ſight; though inſtead of any amity ſubſiſting betwixt them and man, there ſeems to be a perpetual enmity; not on the part of the poor bird, but of cruel, inconſiderate man; from whom they labour under a continued perſecution, from infancy up to manhood, if not to old age: the boy perſecuting them out of wantonneſs, or childiſh amuſement; the man deſtroying them, in order to ſecure his grain from their depredations. Some ſhoot them, to indulge their appetites with a *ſavoury* ſparrow pudding. In *Judea*, they ſeem to have been held in great contempt, our Bleſſed Saviour obſerving,—"*Are not two ſparrows ſold for a farthing? yet not one of them falleth to the ground, without your heavenly Father. Are not you of more value than many ſparrows? O ye of little faith!*"—

The ſparrow is certainly a very vermin[illegible] bird; it is ſuppoſed that he eats near [illegible] the quantity of grain, to any other bird of the ſame ſize. He is alſo a great deſtroyer of bees, when he finds them out of the hive, and in an enfeebled ſtate, from a ſudden fall of rain or a ſudden return of cold weather, when they firſt venture out in the ſpring. As to their food, it is what Divine Providence has thought good and proper to allot them as *their* ſhare in the *general* bounty; his beneficence extending to all his creatures, even the moſt humble (and perhaps contemptible) in the proud eye of ſhort-ſighted man.

Such a conſideration adds a *pure* morality to the following beautiful lines of that humane and amiable poet, Thomſon;

" The fowls of heaven,
" Tam'd by the cruel ſeaſon, croud around
" The winnowing ſtore, and claim the little boon
" Which Providence aſſigns them. One alone,
" The red-breaſt ſacred to the houſehold gods,
" Wiſely regardful of th' embroiling ſky,
" In joyleſs fields, and thorny thickets, leaves
" His ſhivering mates, and pays to *truſted* man
" His *annual* viſit."

In uniſon with the above, is that humane precept in the Moſaical law,—" Thou ſhalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn."

That

That very pleaſing, humane, and generous order, given by Boaz to his reapers, reſpecting the lowly, but lovely Ruth, not only diſplays the innate goodneſs of his heart, and the humanity of his diſpoſition, but alſo convinces us, That real beauty and lovelineſs, however concealed or diſguiſed, cannot be entirely adumbrated.

From that noble fountain, Thomſon certainly drew that charming and moſt admired epiſode, in the Seaſons, "Palemon and Lavinia."

" —— Chanc'd beſide his reaper-train
" To walk, when poor Lavinia drew his eye;
" Unconſcious of her power, and turning quick
" With unaffected bluſhes from his gaze:
" He ſaw her charming; but he ſaw not half
" The charms her down-caſt modeſty conceal'd."

21ſt. A good deal of rain in the night, and a very gloomy, dark morning, but fair and blowing; yet much milder than yeſterday: the wind ſtill S. W. by W. that no veſſel can get over from Whitehaven, and that coaſt. A great outcry for flour and coals; and, I fear, if the wind do not change ſoon, there will be an *abſolute* want of both thoſe articles, ſo neceſſary to the ſupport and comfort of life.

22d. After a very bluſtering night, a very ſtormy diſagreeable morning, with a kind of driſling, driving rain. When it cleared up a little, I ſtole a ſhort walk upon the pier-head, where it was very blowing, but not very cold. I obſerved a very heavy ſea going round the Head, and a very great ſwell upon the north ſide of the bay. Not one floating object to be ſeen upon the water; thoſe that are ſo happy as to be within a ſafe harbour, will certainly keep there, till there be a very material change in the weather.

A coal brig (from Saltcoats in Scotland) was ſtranded upon the Peel ſhore, a few days after we left that place; and was entirely beat to pieces; ſo entirely demoliſhed that (though thrown high upon the ſhore) all her materials, that could be ſecured, would not fetch more than ten pounds for the unfortunate owner.

23d. The laſt evening proved fine and fair, though this day has turned out exceedingly wet and uncomfortable. There was the heavieſt ſhower of rain, betwixt one and two, that I ever remember to have ſeen fall, unleſs preceded by thunder. That ſhower fetched the wind about from the S. W. to the N. W.—Upon the ſtrength of thoſe favourable circumſtances, I ordered a chaiſe to be ready at eight,

to

to take me to Caſtletown, to pay a viſit to the worthy governor; but it turned out ſo true a Manks morning, exceedingly gloomy, and very wet, that I poſtponed my viſit, waiting for a more favourable day.

It is an old ſaying, That a green winter makes a fat church-yard. This is certainly a very green winter, even in this rocky iſland; for there is as fine a verdure in the fields, as if we were advanced two or three months into the ſpring; and the doleful bell, at the old chapel, has hardly ever ceaſed (for two or three weeks paſt) ſounding the melancholy knell.

24th. The moſt ſtormy night I, almoſt, ever remember; and the morning is of the ſame caſt; but it keeps quite fair. I went down to the pier-head, about eleven o'clock, where I found it all work to keep upon my legs. I do not know that I was ever out in ſo ſtrong a wind, unleſs one day in 1756; a day noted for uprooting ſo many large timber trees, in various parts of England. A monſtrous ſtrong ſea runs by the Head, and there is a prodigious ſwell in the bay.

Whilst down at the pier-head, had the pleaſure of ſeeing the George, from Liverpool, come into the bay, and afterwards come cloſe up to the mouth of the harbour, in which ſhe

will *very soon* be safely moored. I hope she brings a supply both of flour and coals; articles very much wanted, at this time here.

25th. Or Christmas day. The brightest, pleasanteſt morning we have been favoured with for a very long time. I could see to write without candles, before eight.—The wind is nearly east, but blows very moderately, therefore, (I hope) will ensure us the packet boat, this day, and also some coal vessels from the Cumberland ports.

The day has ended as it began; very fine and bright, and the evening gives the most flattering hopes that the weather is changing for the better.

26th. Though the evening was so very flattering that I made myself pretty sure of a fine morning, and a fine day to indulge myself in my favourite exercise of walking, and paying a visit in my ramble, to my favourite scene at the lofty Head; yet, upon my rising, betwixt seven and eight, I found all those pleasing hopes vanished, by a heavy downfall of rain; making every place uncomfortable. The day cleared up about ten; but when the rain abated, a stormy wind arose, and from such a quar-

ter as will do away all hopes too of ſeeing either the mail boat, or any coal veſſels this day.

St. Stephen's-day is diſtinguiſhed here by a very ſtrange cuſtom: the hunting of the wren. Numbers aſſemble, by day break in the morning, with long ſticks, with which they beat the hedges and buſhes, till they ſtart one of thoſe ſmart, little birds from its evening retreat. They then purſue it, with great ſhoutings, from buſh to buſh, till the little creature is ſo tired as to be taken by the hand, or knocked down by the ſtick, of one of its barbarous purſuers. It is then fixed upon the top of a long pole, to which is ſuſpended a red handkerchief, by way of a banner; and in that manner it is carried round about the town, in triumph,—which ſerves as a pretext for begging money, or liquor, from the inhabitants.

If they can catch, or kill the poor wren, before ſun-riſing, they firmly believe that it enſures a good herring fiſhery the next ſeaſon.

What gave riſe to ſuch a ſtrange, barbarous cuſtom (which exiſts in every fiſhing town in the iſle) I have not yet been able to learn: or why the tit-wren ſhould be ſelected as the victim of that day; unleſs, from being the ſmalleſt bird upon the iſland, it is intended or meant as a proper ſacrifice to the fairies, (the ſmalleſt

of *imaginary* beings) in order to appeaſe their ill will againſt the poor fiſhermen, to whom they are ſuch plagues in the herring ſeaſon, and for the future render them propitious to them.

THE evening has turned out in the uſual Manks ſtyle, very wet, ſtormy, and diſagreeable.

27th. THE whole night reſembled the evening, only the wind was far more boiſterous; and the morning is much of the ſame caſt with the night, only not quite ſo wet; but an exceedingly dark, diſagreeable day it is likely to prove. Though half paſt ten o'clock, I do not think I have ſeen a dozen people ſtirring in the ſtreets; all ranks indulge themſelves ſhamefully in ſlumberous indolence, every morning; but on a Sunday morning more eſpecially.

WHAT ſays my Boulogne Journal, for the 27th, laſt year? "A ſharp froſt again, this morning; ſome ſhowers of ſnow have fallen ſince day light, and the atmoſphere appears to be ſo heavily loaden with vapour, that we may expect much more to fall ere long. Three packet boats ventured out this morning, but were ſoon obliged to put back again, and the captains were very happy to regain the harbour,

bour, the wind being very boiſterous when they got a little way from this coaſt, and the ſea *uncommonly* agitated. Dreadful weather for ſea-faring people and all thoſe whom buſineſs obliges to croſs, even *this narrow* channel, pending a ſeaſon ſo ſevere and ſtormy as the preſent.

"I NEVER knew a more joyleſs, uncomfortable day than the preſent; a day that has exhibited every ſpecies of winterly horror; and it is cloſing in (four o'clock) with a ſhocking bad evening; the ſnow falling very faſt, and a boiſterous north-eaſt-wind driving it about moſt furiouſly. I am trying to ſhut *out* ſurly winter, by cloſing *in* my window ſhutters, and drawing the curtains cloſe.

"OLD Mr. Repſath called upon me at ſeven, in order to put on a long winter's evening with a little friendly chat, as he had heard I had been much indiſpoſed for four days. It was very kind of the old man to leave his *own* fire ſide, in *ſuch* a night. He told me, That he had ſpent thirty-two winters, in Boulogne, and never remembered ſo terrible a night as the preſent, during that period. It was a true *Highland night*, (he ſaid) ſuch an one as he could recollect to have, now and then, known in his native clime.

"I FIND it moſt uncomfortable to paſs ſuch cold

cold ſtormy nights, *ſleepleſs*, from being ſo very much indiſpoſed, without a companion, without a ſingle individual to ſpeak to. I endeavoured to woo gentle ſleep to my arms, with the kindeſt addreſſes I was maſter of, and often uſed my charm from Gray; but all in vain; for, "ſo coy a dame is ſleep to me," with all my moſt earneſt courtſhip, I

—— "Can't win her to my bed."

The *two twenty ſeventhſ* (though in ſuch different climes) have accorded very well in every reſpect, ſave the froſt and ſnow; and we ſhould be glad to make an exchange of this *deluging* ſeaſon, for even a *ſevere* froſty one; but to Providence we muſt *contentedly* leave the option and diſpoſal of ſeaſons.

28th. The whole night was very blowing, but the latter part fair, with bright moonlight; and very ſtar light, when I got up at ſeven; but I could not perceive the leaſt froſty appearance upon the windows.—I went upon the How, expecting to have ſeen a hunt with Captain Taubman's hounds, that being the ground fixed upon on Saturday, for this day's ſport. After waiting about an hour, I was told that the hunt was poſtponed till the next day.

I did

I did not feel myſelf much diſappointed, being determined to make up, in healthful exerciſe, what I loſt in amuſement; therefore, the day turning out much finer than could be expected, I took a very long, and very pleaſant, ſtroll along the lofty ſhore, to the ſouthward, as far as St. Ann-Bay.

29th. THOUGH ſo fine a day yeſterday, yet the weather (ſome time in the night) reverted to the true Manks ſtyle, *wet and windy*: and though we cannot call this *one of the dark days before Chriſtmas*, yet we may very truly call it one of the dark days *after Chriſtmas*; ſo dark and foggy, that at *near mid-day*, I can hardly ſee to write "high winds (in all other countries) diſpel morning fogs, and produce tolerably light nights, even when the moon *withholds* her ſhining upon us; but the caſe is quite otherwiſe in this iſland." The natives regard it not, as long as there are Jamaica ſpirits in plenty, to make the *animal barometer* aſcend pretty high, and keep it up all day above the ſinking point. For "Grog is the liquor of life:" As for inſtance, there is a true orthodox *Chriſtian* here, that can ſwallow down fifteen or ſixteen large glaſſes, in the courſe of a forenoon, as a proper preparative for eating two or three pounds of beef ſteaks at dinner;—

there

there is a nobleman in this iſland, of the true *Norman* line, that once maſtered ſeven and twenty glaſſes, as a preparative for a journey acroſs the iſland; but they revolted upon the road, and were ſo far conquerors as to lay his *Honour* in the duſt.

30th. AFTER a very wet and very ſtormy night, a very ſtormy morning, and a dark, diſagreeable, and moſt uncomfortable day.

I WAS very hoſpitably entertained, yeſterday, at Capt. Dundaſs's, where I met a very agreeable party.—I made an attempt, before dinner, to get down to the pier-head, but found it ſo very ſtormy that I was very glad to get back, and under ſhelter. The ſea (according to the ſailors phraſe) ran mountains high.

THE laſt night was the annual hunting hop. Hunters in general are eſteemed as a ſociable, hoſpitable ſet of beings, whatever they are elſe; but, it ſeems, hoſpitality amongſt the gentlemen of the *livery* here is chiefly confined to the natives, reſidents, or *gueſts* of the *ſporting hotel*.

I WILL now compare my obſervations, reſpecting the weather, with thoſe of the ſame date laſt year.——" Some ſay, *This* is the ſharpeſt morning, others contend that yeſterday *was* ſharper. The thermometer alone, in my opinion, can decide the queſtion. *This* is certainly

tainly the pleaſanter, *becauſe* the brighter; for the appearance of the ſun can certainly raiſe our ſpirits, when his rays are too languid to warm the body. I can hardly help wiſhing, when ſo ſeverely pinched with the cold, that I were one of the ſeven ſleepers tribe, that I might doſe through the tremendous winter-ſtorms, and not awake till the following elegant invitation might be breathed with propriety,

" Come, gentle Spring, ethereal mildneſs, come,
" And from the boſom of yon dropping cloud,
" While muſic wakes around, veil'd in a ſhower
" Of ſhadowing roſes, on our plains deſcend.

.....

" Till no more
" Th' expanſive atmoſphere is cramp'd with cold:
" But, full of life and vivifying ſoul,
" Lifts the light clouds ſublime, and ſpreads them thin,
" Fleecy and white o'er all ſurrounding heaven."

"I CAN now determine the ſuperiority of this day, if it will give it any merit, that in point of frigidity it certainly exceeds the laſt; for a decanter of water, ſet down in the window, not four yards diſtant from a very good fire, and the light of that fire ſhining full upon the decanter, was during my time of dinner, which could not be longer than half an hour, ſkinned over

over with ice, darting its radii, or nitrous spiculæ, the whole way down; so that it would have been soon congealed into one entire body of ice, if it had not been set down close to the fire.

31ſt. The laſt night was the ſtilleſt night we have ever had, during this laſt month of the year; not a breath of wind to be heard.—Finding myſelf not quite well, for want of my uſual walking-exerciſe, the mildneſs of the morning induced a reſolution of having a jumble in a chaiſe; by ſlanting acroſs the iſland, from this place to Port Iron, (which is juſt ſixteen miles) and amuſing myſelf by taking a ſecond view of that moſt beautiful and romantic little bay. The weather relapſed to its uſual dropping ſtate, before we reached the firſt mile-ſtone, and that plentiful diſtillation was ſucceeded by frequent ſtorms of hail; however it was kindly favourable to me, by a reſpite of more than an hour, during my ſtay at Port-Iron. The form of that bay *exactly* reſembles a horſe-ſhoe. The ſmoothneſs and gentle declivity of the ſandy ſhore, at the head, forms a moſt ſtriking contraſt with the huge miſ-ſhapen and tremendous rocks that form the two head-lands; that to the north (called Brada-Head) towering up to a ſtupendous height; a noble breeding place

for

for the wild pigeons. The whole coaſt, from Port le Murry to Balla Doule, about three miles in length, was covered with the greateſt quantity of ſea weeds that I ever ſaw thrown up, upon *any* ſhore. Vaſt numbers of people were employed, in carting it away, and laying it up in vaſt heaps, all along the coaſt. It is a pity they do not know the right management of it better, as Providence is ſo very bountiful in that beneficial article of tillage. It ought to be made up, immediately, into compoſt heaps, with freſh dung and ſome kind of earthy ſubſtance, or laid upon the land intended for a ſpring crop, and directly ploughed down. Inſtead of that, they lay it up in ſmall heaps, along the dry beach, where it ſoon loſes its marine ſalt and vegetable oil, by the continual waſhing of heavy rain, or withered, and much weakened in its fructifying powers, by ſevere winter-froſts.

I WAS very ſorry to hear, that the old governor of the Calf, finding his eye ſight to fail him, and his health much impaired, had quitted his truſt, and gone to reſide with a granddaughter, near Caſtletown; where, poor man! he died in about a week after his arrival.

THE boat that went with letters from hence to Whitehaven, on Tueſday laſt, returned this night,

night, and brought the new collector over, [illegible] no mail boat.

The night cleared up, betwixt eight [illegible] nine, and at ten the moon ſhone very [illegible] and innumerable ſtars too in their [illegible] ſhone with ſparkling brightneſs, portending froſt.—Wind North Weſt.

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.